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Officials deny Jewish terror suspect was tortured

EVELYN GORDON

ALLEGATIONS that Lt. Oren Edri was tortured to obtain a confession are completely untrue, both the Justice Ministry and the head of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee insisted yesterday.

Edri and seven others are being investigated for allegedly belonging to a group which had planned terror attacks against Arabs.

Meanwhile, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat is preparing a special report on General Security Service investigations, she told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday.

Ben-Porat said her office's investigation of the issue is now at its height, and that she hopes to have a completed report ready soon.

However, she stressed, it is not true that the comptroller's office has a permanent representative at GSS investigations. It would have been possible to receive this impression from recent radio remarks by former GSS head Avraham Ahitov, she said, but it would be incorrect.

Ben-Porat made these statements in response to a request by MK Uzi Landau (Likud) that she investigate the methods the GSS is using against what he termed "political opponents of the government." Landau said it is imperative that Ben-Porat investigate whether the government is using the GSS to persecute its political opponents, to prevent the public's faith in the service from being eroded.

Committee chairman David Magen (Likud) said the committee will hold another discussion on the issue immediately after the summer recess ends, after Shabbat.

Edri's allegations of mistreatment were investigated by Eran Shendar, head of the Justice Ministry's unit for investigating police. Shendar will present his report today to the Ministerial Committee on the General Security Service, which is headed by Justice Minister David Liba'i.

Shendar and his team spoke with everyone involved, and several times visited the prison where Edri is being held, according to the ministry. While the investigation has not been completed, Edri himself has denied that any violence or means of torture were used against him, the ministry claimed.

While some of his complaints were verified, the ministry added, these related to general problems.

New suspect arrested in terror plot

RAINE MARCUS
HERB KEINON
and Kim

YOSEF Mor, a suspected member of the underground which allegedly conspired to murder Arabs, was remanded for seven days by the Petah-Tikva Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Mor, of Kiryat Arba, is suspected of providing services to an illegal organization. Judge Noga Ohad banned publication of all details of the court hearing.

Another suspect, Ya'acov Ben-David, a Moslem who converted to Judaism and who was arrested by the GSS and the national crime squad on Sunday, was released yesterday but Israel Radio reported last night he has been summoned for further questioning today.

Mor was not allowed to consult with lawyers Shlomo Rabelsky and Ariel Sarig who were sent to represent him. The lawyers presented Mor's case and then were ordered to leave the room as the suspect was brought in.

After the hearing, the two again blasted the law forbidding them to meet with a client under emergency regulations.

"Our client's basic rights have been violated," they said. "It is his right to meet with a lawyer to tell him about the investigation, conditions and any requests he may have. This is not justice. It is our

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Likud MK Uzi Landau, who called Prime Minister Rabin a swindler, gestures during his Knesset speech yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

Gov't wavers on Golan referendum

EVELYN GORDON

THE government will hold a referendum on the Golan Heights only if it thinks whatever agreement it reaches with Syria is significantly different from what the people wanted, Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur told the Knesset yesterday.

Gur also clearly implied that the government is considering giving up the entire Golan, by closing his speech with a quote from Egyptian Chief of General Staff Gen. Fahmy.

"It could be that Assad will decide to move towards you," Gur quoted Fahmy as saying. "But that will leave us open wound. And in another eight years a new generation, which has never known the fear of war, will arise, and will say: 'What is this? By whose authority?' Never leave an open wound, if you can."

Gur was responding to 11 motions on the government's negotiations with Syria, which took up half of yesterday's special Knesset session. Even at the session's peak, however, less than a third of the MKs were present, and by Gur's response, only about a dozen were left.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin walked out of the room during the first speech, by Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, after MK Uzi Landau (Likud) shouted: "There has never been a swindler like you!"

"If the chairman of the Likud is not willing to denounce Landau's words, I am not willing to sit here," Rabin announced, and walked out without waiting for Netanyahu to reply. He did not return.

Gur spoke twice about the conditions under which the government would hold a referendum.

"If we reach an agreement with the Syrians which is significantly different from what we wanted, and from what we are fighting for today, then we will hold a referendum and the people will decide," he said the first time.

Later in his speech, he changed his wording slightly: "If we think that [the agreement] doesn't match what the people intended, then we will hold a referendum," he said.

Gur implied that territorial concessions were unavoidable due to US pressure and Israel's need for US military technology. The key to winning a war these days is technology, not territory, he said.

"We don't want to reach a situation [where we have to choose] between the US and the Golan, between certain weapons systems and part of the Golan," he said. "We don't want to reach a state where we are facing an ultimatum."

Furthermore, he insisted, Syria really has changed, since it now recognizes that its goals cannot be achieved by war.

The strongest opposition to Gur's views came in an impassioned speech by Avigdor Kahalani (Labor). Kahalani opened by pointing out that Syria has not changed: it is still waging a vicious proxy war against Israel via Hizbullah.

"There is no doubt that Syria is running Hizbullah," he said. "And there is no doubt that if the Syrians wanted it, Hizbullah

(Continued on Page 11)

Arafat drops demand for Jerusalem funding

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat last night dropped his insistence that some international donor assistance be designated to fund Palestinian institutions in eastern Jerusalem.

At the same time, he has been assured by key donors meeting in Oslo that an unspecified amount of short-term funding will be reallocated from project aid to covering the operating costs of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

On the first anniversary of the Oslo accord, Arafat, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjorn Tore Godal met in Oslo along with key donors. It was a bid to resolve the impasse on donor assistance to the PA.

The implicit tradeoff comes amid quiet pressure from the US, the European Union, and Japan, which sent representatives to the talks. They urged Arafat to back off the Jerusalem issue at this time, Israeli officials said.

They also gave their unofficial blessing to the three-and-a-half page document that was finalized in a meeting between Peres and Arafat last night, sources said.

The document included a provision whereby neither Israel nor the PLO "shall bring before the donor community those political issues that are of disagreement between them. They will deal with such issues between themselves, based on the Declaration of Principles and subsequent agreements."

This was a clear reference to the Jerusalem issue. Israel rejects donor assistance being channeled to

Palestinian institutions there since the PA has no jurisdiction in the capital.

Arafat's reversal came after World Bank talks last Friday in Paris bogged down over the clash on Jerusalem institutional funding. Now the way is paved for donors to meet, perhaps as soon as next week, to provide fresh assistance to the PA.

PLO officials say they need \$150 million in operating assistance until next March. The document makes clear that the emergency funding for operating costs should be phased out next March, by which time the Palestinian tax collection system should be functioning.

Until then, the document states the donors will agree to fund the Palestinian Police, but via the UN Development Program.

According to the document, referred to as the "Oslo Declaration," the US, the UN, and Norway, will dispatch envoys to energize support among 34 donor countries for a reallocation of funding for the PA. Under the arrangement reached last night, fresh funding would add to the estimated \$50 million pledged to the "Holst Fund," named for the late Norwegian foreign minister who was involved in the secret Israel-PLO talks in Oslo last year, which is designated for recurrent costs of the PA.

The document also states: "Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres expressed their satisfaction with the recent developments in the peace process, including the recent developments between Jordan and Israel, the recent statements by Syria and Israel, and the upcoming Casa-

(Continued on Page 11)

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Tips to keep you well over the fast

JUDY SIEGEL

PROF. Elliot Berry, head of clinical nutrition at the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine, offers the following tips for this Yom Kippur.

• The pre-fast meal today should include some salt, because the intense heat is likely to deplete the body's sodium supplies through perspiration.

• If possible, pray in an air-conditioned synagogue.

• Don't walk in the heat - "and that includes a trek in 38-degree weather to the Western Wall."

• The best way to avoid hunger and thirst during a fast is to eat and drink frequently, but gradually during the day before Yom Kippur.

• An ideal meal consists of non-spicy dishes of complex carbohydrates - pasta, potatoes, corn, beans, rice, and whole-grain bread with several glasses of water or juice.

• The "anti-fast drops" being sold around the country, "these have absolutely no known beneficial effect."

• People with chronic diseases, such as diabetes or a heart condition, should consult their doctor and/or rabbi before deciding whether to fast.

• Break the fast gradually, beginning with juice, followed by a light snack. Only an hour or so later should one sit down to a full meal.

Mahmoud Abbas visits Haifa; demonstrators keep him out of Safed

SENIOR PLO official Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) was hosted by Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna and given a warm welcome by Israeli Arabs in the Galilee, but a demonstration by hundreds of people in Safed, his birthplace, forced cancellation of his planned visit there.

Abbas postponed the scheduled visit to Safed on the advice of Police Inspector General Assaf Hefetz and after coordination with Police Minister Moshe Shaleh's office. He stressed, however, that he would visit his birthplace at some stage and would do so openly, and not in secret.

"We won't allow the murderer of our children to come to Safed," shouted one of the protesters at the entrance to the city yesterday. "We have not forgotten. We will never forget. We don't want you. Go back," shouted another of the demonstrators in English.

DAVID RUDGE

despite the announcement that Abbas had postponed the planned visit. The protesters held up photographs of the young victims of the Ma'alot massacre, several of whom were Safed residents. The protesters charged that Abbas had planned the murderous attack.

The Safed municipality, at a special meeting of the council with the participation of rabbinical leaders yesterday, declared Abbas "persona non grata." The municipality called on residents to prevent him from coming to the town.

Instead, Abbas, accompanied by PLO chief Yasser Arafat's advisor, Dr. Ahmed Tibi, paid an unscheduled visit to Haifa where he was given a warm welcome by Mitzna and city councillors, as well as leading Arab residents of the city.

Mitzna said it was his pleasure

to host Abbas in Haifa. "There is still a long way for us to walk together and this meeting is a good signpost for the future," said Mitzna.

"It is important that you see and you should know that not all cities in Israel are like the one (Safed) that you won't be visiting today," he said.

Abbas said he was confident that within two years there would be a comprehensive peace in the region. He said the demonstrators in Safed had not yet realized the significance and meaning of real peace, adding that he believed they were a small minority in Israel.

He said that Haifa was a shining example to all those who dreamed of real peace in the region.

Later Abbas and Tibi were given a warm reception during visits to Arab towns and villages in the Galilee, including Dir al-Assad, near Acre.



Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna (far left) shows the city to senior PLO official Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), standing second from left, yesterday.

Arab-Jewish meetings mark Oslo anniversary

JON IMMANUEL

A HUNDRED Nablus residents came to Jerusalem yesterday to celebrate the first anniversary of the Oslo agreements with their Israeli counterparts in a dialogue group.

Protests against the agreement were limited to Ramallah where a Hamas leaflet calling for a day of escalation was observed as a shopkeepers' strike. In Hebron, which has a larger share of Hamas supporters, the Hamas protest call was ignored.

A meeting of students at Bir Zeit University expressed solidarity with prisoners.

In Gaza and Jericho life continued as normal.

The visiting Nablus families, part of the Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue for Peace, spent two hours with Israelis in their homes after which they shared a festive dinner under the banner "Two Peoples, Two States, One Future."

Among the visitors were a former security prisoner who sat on the Washington negotiating team and a deportee who returned last

year after 25 years in Jordan. Sameh Kanaan, who spent 12 years in prison for preparing explosives, noted that he would only have been released this year if he had served his full 21-year term and had not been freed in the 1985 prisoner exchange.

Sabah Shaheen, one of two women who returned from exile in April 1993, was deported as a communist activist in 1969. "You can see how dangerous I was," she remarked, noting that the communists were the only Palestinian political group which accepted the UN partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states in 1947.

Looking back, Kanaan said that his actions contributed nothing to achieving peace. "It was just force against force." But the intifada did achieve the beginning of negotiations because because it was "people against force."

As a member of the negotiating team in Washington, he was satisfied that the Oslo agreement, reached behind the backs of the official negotiators, was the basis of real peace.

Golan settlers reject request to end their hunger strike

DAVID RUDGE

GOLAN settlers yesterday declined a request from Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliezer Bakshi-Doron to end their hunger strike today, Yom Kippur Eve.

Bakshi-Doron made the call when he visited the hunger-strikers at their protest tent overlooking Gama yesterday afternoon.

With temperatures reaching 40°, Doron urged them to end their hunger strike, especially in light of the upcoming Day of Atonement.

He said he fully supported the aims and reasons for the protest and praised their commitment to their campaign against any concessions on the Golan Heights. He also pledged to use his influence as chief rabbi to further what he said was their just fight.

Uri Heitner, one of the hunger strikers and spokesman for the Golan Settlers Committee, said Doron had told him it was a mitzva to eat prior to the Yom Kippur fast.

"He told us that our hunger strike had already achieved its target," said Heitner, one of the 11 Golan activists who have been on an hunger strike since Sunday morning.

"Nevertheless, we decided that we would continue our hunger strike on the grounds that it is permitted to endanger individuals for the greater benefit and security of others," he said.

He said that the hunger strikers "drinking water because of the excessive heat, but nothing else." "It seems that in this case psychology is stronger than physiology and we are holding up because we believe in what we are doing," he said.

The hunger strikers have vowed to continue their fast until they receive a firm assurance from Prime Minister's Yitzhak Rabin that there will be an Israeli presence on the Golan in any peace settlement with Syria.

Thousands of people have visited the protest tent site on the hill-top overlooking Gama on the southern reaches of the Golan since the hunger strike began.

A mass Yom Kippur Eve prayer session is to be held there today.

CORRECTION

The date for *Sunwheel*, an 18-hour-long "musical mystical land experience" performed by three German musicians atop Masada, is September 25, at 4:20 a.m., and not as published in Monday's paper.

Winning numbers

In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 714429 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 469003 won a Honda sports car. Tickets numbered 658825, 855216, 559021, 391234, 061870, 062064, 276938, 558839, 010617, 497929, 340096, 411070, 614666, 261975, 470298, 095008, 541956, 650945, 509783, 600435, 743451, 513414, 817015, 265749, 839705 and 024934 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 61175, 25745, 34314, 21210, 09805, 44877, 30299, 24813, 76793, 69547, 39812, 19097, 12227, 29213, 48074, 93916, 92046, 35585 and 37107 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 681, 203, 068, and 937 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 26, 02, 87, and 84 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 05, 87, 97, 89, 77, 37, and 41 won NIS 10. Tickets ending in 5 won NIS 7.

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 21, 30, 36, 37, 40 and 48, and the additional number was 31.

Syrian FM urges quick reaction to Assad speech

CAIRO (AP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farruk Sharaa said yesterday that Israel should respond quickly to President Hafez Assad's new statement on peace prospects, repeating Syria wants progress in negotiations.

Sharaa made the statement as he arrived for a meeting of Arab League Foreign Ministers starting today in Cairo.

Israel has "to respond quickly to Assad's speech. It is not enough that they express satisfaction," Sharaa said, referring to a speech

on Saturday. He did not explain what kind of response he was seeking.

Meanwhile, speaking in Washington, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said that Israel and Syria have about 10 to 12 months to forge a peace agreement before upcoming U.S. and Israeli elections could put a peace agreement out of reach. Beilin added that even if a pact is concluded peace with Syria might not last for ever.

In his address Saturday, Assad said he was ready to reach a peace

agreement with Israel and make it work. But he also repeated his insistence that Israel give up the entire Golan Heights.

Sharaa said it was unlikely that the Arab League foreign ministers would discuss lifting their economic boycott of Israel.

"The Arab boycott is part of the peace process and I don't think any changes would occur in this issue during these meetings," Sharaa said.

In Beirut, Lebanon's Foreign Minister Faris Bouez urged Arab

states not to lift their economic boycott of Israel so long as Israel haggled over withdrawing from occupied lands.

"Any pressure or request to the Arab side to throw away this card we think is a kind of surrender of the Arab negotiator and comes outside the context of balanced and serious negotiations," Bouez said.

Diplomats said earlier that the United States was trying to persuade the Arab League to lift the boycott immediately.

Rafal: Arab leaders can't be trusted

TSOMET leader Rafal Eitan argued yesterday that "no peace agreement with any Arab state — including Egypt — can be trusted. Arab leaders are all dictatorial despots who do not represent their countries, and they are simply out to pull the wool over our eyes."

Eitan was addressing a central committee meeting in Rosh Ha'ayin, the first since the recent internal Tsomet elections.

President Ezer Weizman, the guest of honor, insisted that "Israel no longer faces the existential

perils it had to contend with in 1948, 1956, and 1967." Despite this, he said the IDF's superiority must be maintained.

Though Weizman appealed for less acrimony in political debates, Eitan lashed out at Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for "foolhardily risking the security and the very existence of this nation. He has suddenly decided to give up everything — all the gains made in battle at terrible cost — as if it were nothing."

SARAH HONIG

Five Lebanese held for Argentine bombing

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Five Lebanese citizens have been detained for questioning in connection with the deadly bombing of a Jewish community center, a judge said yesterday.

The five, including a 16-year-old boy, were detained Saturday in Misiones province near Argentina's border with Brazil, Criminal Court Judge Mario Jachiro Doy told local radio stations. Jachiro Doy said the five will be questioned by Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano, who is leading the investigation.

Police raid home of Palestinian security chief's bodyguard

BILL HUTMAN and news agencies

JERUSALEM police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby denied that Awad was tricked. "During a search of Anwar Awad's home we took some pictures we suspected belonged to Anwar," he said.

The incident occurred amid charges by Rajoub his agents are being unfairly hounded by the security services. Rajoub said he has taken the matter up with PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Jerusalem police sources, meanwhile, said the chance arrests of the bodyguards Saturday, and uncovering of documents belonging to the Palestinian security service in their possession, represents an intelligence windfall.

Additional arrests of Palestinians in Jerusalem linked with Rajoub's force, which is based in Jericho, are likely, the sources added.

Meanwhile, police yesterday detained four Palestinian Police officers suspected of trying to travel between the autonomous areas of Jericho and Gaza without permission, a spokesman said.

Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said the four were detained just north of Jerusalem en route to Gaza. He said they were wearing civilian clothing but had packed their Palestinian Police uniforms as well.

Palestinians may only travel between the self-rule areas in coordination with the security services. No reaction was available from the Palestinian self-rule government. The identities of the detained men were not released.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The Bet-El Yeshiva Center welcomes Mr. Eugen Gluck, Chairman of the Board, American Friends of the Bet-El Yeshiva Center, and Mrs. Jean Gluck.

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On the Fifth Yahrzeit of our dear

SYRIL BLONDHEIM

We will visit her grave the day after Yom Kippur, Friday, September 16, 1994 at 12:30 p.m. Eretz Hachaim Cemetery, near Beit Shemesh.

Ex-GSS chief Yosef Hermelin, 72

ALON PINKAS

YOSEF Hermelin, former head of the General Security Service, was buried yesterday in the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery in Tel Aviv. Hermelin died Monday evening at the age of 72, after a long battle with cancer.

President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak, IDF generals, and GSS and Mossad officials attended the funeral.

Hermelin, who was born in Vienna and grew up in Mexico, made aliyah in 1939 at age 16. He was recruited into the GSS by Isser Harel and became its head in 1964, a post he held until 1974, taking the GSS into the post-1967 era of coping with the territories and facing mounting terrorism.

Hermelin then moved to a dip-

lomatic career and was Israel's last ambassador to Iran. He was later named ambassador to South Africa.

But fate brought Hermelin back to the GSS. In 1986, following the Bus 300 scandal which forced GSS head Avraham Shalom and other senior officers from their posts, Hermelin was asked by his old friend, then prime minister Shimon Peres, to take over and regenerate the GSS, perceived by the public to be to be out of control and abusing power. Hermelin accepted on condition his return be for one year only, but the aftershocks of the affair and the Landau Commission set up to probe GSS practices kept him in office for two years.

For the last several years, Hermelin was chairman of the board of Oil Services.

NEWS IN BRIEF

One killed, one hurt in TA road accident

A young woman was killed and another person was seriously injured yesterday evening when their car hit head-on by a truck on Yigael Alon Road in Tel Aviv.

The truck driver apparently lost control of his vehicle. He was brought in for questioning.

Police seeking two missing at sea

POLICE launches and Navy patrol boats joined yesterday in a search for two young men on a catamaran, who vanished after heading out to sea from Herzliya yesterday afternoon.

When the two had not returned to the marina by 7 p.m., family members contacted police and reported them missing. At press time, they had not been located.

Eleven years for theft and sexual assault

Ahmed Faiz Nagami, 20, of Haifa, was sentenced to 11 years in prison by Haifa District Court yesterday for sexually assaulting and robbing seven women.

Nagami confessed to the crimes. The sentence included a three-year prison term which was pending against him.

The judge recommended that he receive psychological treatment while in prison for his uncontrollable sexual aggression. The man, dubbed "the kissing bandit" would forcibly caress and kiss his victims while stealing their belongings on dark Haifa streets.

Ministry refuses care to Falash Mura orphan

The Absorption Ministry has refused to give assistance to a 15-year-old orphan Falash Mura immigrant.

"In Ethiopia I was persecuted and hated because I was Jewish — and here I am a Christian," said Mara Bayuch.

The girl immigrated here three months ago under the Law of Entry. At first she was given a caravan in Haifa and later moved to live with her stepmother in Ashdod.

An Absorption Ministry spokesman said the girl's case will be investigated and her problems would be dealt with.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the seven of spades, eight of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and seven of clubs.

NO FORGIVENESS!

Even on Yom Kippur, unless there is atonement, there can be no forgiveness for the Rabin Government, for:

- The sin of releasing Arab terrorists, while imprisoning Jewish defenders!
- The sin of "resurrecting" Chief Terrorist Murderer Yasser Arafat, and giving him full reign in "Yudea and Samaria" and Jericho — "first"
- The sin of desecrating G-d's miraculous return of Judea, Samaria and the Golan — by signing away our sacred Jewish soil to Arab enemies of Israel, in the name of so-called "peace."

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Mr. and Mrs. Jean and Eugen Gluck

who stand in the forefront of the struggle for the future and security of the State of Israel and Judea and Samaria in particular

Progress made towards treaty with Jordan

STEVE RODAN

ISRAELI and Jordanian negotiators, ending two days of talks yesterday, announced progress on a wide range of issues towards a full peace treaty, including an ambitious plan that would construct a canal from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea.

"I consider the last two days to have been extremely fruitful," chief Jordanian negotiator Fayez al-Tarawneh said. "We made progress in almost all the committees we were engaged in, including the central committees of water, boundaries and security."

Elyakim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, agreed. "Let me associate myself with what Doctor Tarawneh said. I think everything he said we could repeat."

The satisfaction expressed by the delegation heads contrasted with the low-key tone that characterized the talks, held at Bet Givri on the shores of Lake Kinneret. At the end of the last round of talks, held at the Dead Sea, some Jordanian negotiators complained of Israeli inflexibility.

The most significant progress reported at the end of yesterday's negotiations was the near-completion of the terms of reference plan to develop the Jordan Rift Valley. This would allow both countries to submit separate drafts, compare them and eventually end up with an agreed comprehensive proposal on developing the border area between Israel and Jordan.

The main element of the project, which is being coordinated by the United States, would be the construction of a canal from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea. Officials said both sides agreed to undertake a feasibility study on the issue in cooperation with the World Bank.

Jordanian team spokesman Marwan Muasher estimated the cost of the canal to be between \$1.5 billion and \$3 billion. He said Jordan regards the canal as the prime element of any development program because of its potential to produce electricity.

Muasher also said Israel and Jordan agreed on the final details that would allow Amman to export \$30 million worth of goods

until the end of the year to Judea and Samaria, excluding Jericho. "It is totally up to the Palestinians to decide whether they want to import these goods," he said.

Israeli and Jordanian negotiators also reported some progress on what is being regarded as core issues in the talks: border delineations and division of water resources. Both sides agreed on a total of 12 points of demarcation, beginning a complex job of drawing and comparing where each side views its border.

Regarding water, negotiators said both sides were elaborating their positions on how much water they were claiming from the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers. Israel claims all the waters of the Jordan north of where the river forms the border with Jordan. The Hashemite kingdom wants an agreement to limit Israel's diversion of that artery.

Negotiators also continued to work on details of the site of a northern crossing. The location chosen would be about 20 kilometers south of Lake Kinneret at the old Sheikh Hussein Bridge. Both sides agreed to open the crossing by mid-November.

Jordanian and Israeli journalists were again provided with plenty of diversion from the lackluster talks. They were taken to a high school in Bet Zorah, south of Tiberias where students asked the Jordanians questions about peace and normalization.

Muasher acknowledged that Israelis are more enthusiastic about peace than the Jordanians. "For Israelis, the problem is being accepted as part of the region," he said. "Jordanians have other problems, such as land, water and refugees."

Jordanian journalists sat with the students and tried to make conversation. But the Jordanians were limited to Arabic, and the Israelis to Hebrew.

Negotiators scheduled their next meeting on the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea on September 28-29. Another two weeks of negotiations will be held starting October 10, half the time in Israel and the remainder in Jordan.



Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak joins in yesterday's IDF running championship for officers. (IDF Spokesman)

More than 1,000 Israelis expected in Jordan during Succot

HAIM SHAPIRO

MORE than 1,000 Israelis will visit Jordan during Succot, according to Moshe Hananel, director of Galilee Tours, one of the largest tour organizers for travel to Jordan.

Hananel said that a news item in The Jerusalem Post was instrumental in bringing down the last obstacle to border crossings into Jordan by Israelis with foreign passports. This week, Prime Min-

ister Rabin, who is acting Interior Minister, signed the order eliminating Jordan from the list of enemy states.

The news item explained that Jordan was willing to grant visas to Israelis with foreign passports, but the Israeli authorities would not allow them to cross directly from Israel into Jordan. As a result of

the article, Hananel said, many questions were raised concerning Israel's policy, including from British and American circles.

Hananel said his company is selling three basic packages, a three-night excursion to Amman, Petra and Jerash for \$245 or \$310, depending on accommodation, a weekend at Petra and Akaba for

\$270, and a one-night visit to Petra for \$195.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) is also to begin selling a four-night, in-depth tour of Jordan, including sunrise at Mt. Nebo, a camel ride in Wadi Rum, and a visit to Madaba. The tours, which are to leave every Thursday from Tel Aviv, are to be publicized in the SPNI brochures abroad.

Mediterranean waters in good shape

LIAT COLLINS

THE Mediterranean coastal waters are in good condition and not suffering from metal concentrations, although localized trouble spots are found in the Haifa Bay, according to a report released by the Institute for Marine and In-Land Water Research.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid expressed satisfaction with the report which he will present at the international meeting on the Mediterranean in Tunisia in November. The survey was submitted jointly to the Environment Ministry and Energy Ministry.

The report also found that all fish studied were found fit for consumption and met Israeli regulations. The report even found a drop in the level of pollution in the Haifa area, presumably a response to the decrease in industrial petrochemical waste water after regulations were tightened.

The report, based on a survey from 1993, did not quiet fears of other marine researchers investigating the deaths of 12 dolphins in Israeli waters this year.

A postmortem found high levels of lead in the corpses of some and lung disease in others, according to dolphin researcher Oz Gofman. He suggested that poisoned fish is the most likely reason for the dolphins' demise.

Jig is up for LSD smugglers

AMIR ROZENBLIT

AN attempt to smuggle thousands of LSD tablets into the country, inside the binding of two children's books was foiled by police this week.

Five suspects, including Beersheba post office manager Eliahu Edri, 50, Beersheba graphic artist and advertising agency owner Sammy Ross, 40, and a British woman, were arrested.

Acting on intelligence information, undercover police located a package which had been sent to a 12-year-old girl in Beersheba from England three weeks ago.

The seemingly innocent parcel contained two books in English, one of them about the Ninja Turtles. However, police decided to tear apart the bindings and were shocked at what they found.

"We opened the internal binding and got a surprise: 3,000 LSD tablets had been hidden inside each book, worth NIS 300,000-500,000. Two children's books worth about NIS 10 were really worth close to a NIS 1 million. The tablets were hidden inside little square bags that looked like tea bags. The drugs were the type used by youths at acid parties," said Dep. Cmdr. Dov Lindner, head of the Southern District drug unit.

Police impounded some of the drugs, but put some of them back, rebound the books, repacked the parcel, and kept a careful watch on it, but the smugglers apparently caught on.

Police said the post office man-

ager was asked to have the parcel moved to another branch by Marcel Sadan, 50, of Beersheba, whose niece's name was on the parcel, apparently after Sadan realized the police were on to the gang. However, post office officials refused to do so because of the parcel's size.

Sammy Ross, Sadan's brother-in-law, then called Edri, the manager of another post office branch, and asked that he have the package transferred to his branch because Ross's advertising agency was closer to it. According to police, he asked Edri to check whether two books had arrived in the package, which Edri did, then went to pick it up on Sunday, at which time the two were arrested.

Ross's sister-in-law Michelle Sadan, 46, a British citizen, was also arrested on suspicion of sending the drugs, as were Marcel Sadan and Rahamin Elbaz, 47, believed to have headed the gang. Police said it was uncertain whether the shipment was a one-time delivery or part of an ongoing series.

Elbaz was remanded for 10 days, as were Marcel and Michelle Sadan, while Ross was remanded for four days. Police told the court that Edri had gone to Turkey on August 25 and returned from England on August 28, around the time the drugs were sent, making him a possible suspect in the sending of the LSD, but Edri denied this.

Police said more arrests are likely, and plan to contact British authorities to make further inquiries.

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US: Haiti invasion 'could be very soon'

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the Pentagon readied two aircraft carriers for duty off Haiti, the White House said yesterday that military action could come "very soon." Republican opposition to an invasion escalated, with one senator demanding an end to "gunboat liberalism."

The strident attacks were voiced despite warnings by Secretary of State Warren Christopher that domestic divisions will only encourage army chief Raoul Cedras and his allies to hang on to power.

The administration sought to address those divisions by sending two of its senior military officials to Capitol Hill yesterday for a closed-door meeting with Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, one of the critics of the invasion plans. Defense Secretary William Perry and Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, met with Dole in his office.

Dole, going into the session,

said, "I don't know if I'll be able to say anything about what they tell me."

Meanwhile, the steady stream of Republican criticism on the Senate floor continued yesterday. Sen. John McCain, a Republican member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said the Clinton administration has boxed itself into the invasion.

"Why is our credibility at stake? It's because we have threatened, because we continue to say we will invade that we are almost compelled to do so," McCain said. "What happens to our credibility if we find ourselves in a quagmire?"

White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta predicted yesterday that despite widespread opposition to a US invasion, "ultimately, the American people... will rally to their president."

Panetta, interviewed on ABC, said the time for Haiti's military leaders to leave "is now."

N. Korea returns remains of 14 US soldiers

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) — North Korea, seeking improved ties with the United States, handed over 14 coffins containing the remains of American soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War — the first remains turned over this year.

The transfer yesterday occurs as the two long-time enemies are

moving to improve ties that have been tested by a longstanding dispute over the Communist North's nuclear program.

The hand-over came as the United States and North Korea ended three days of talks in the North's capital of Pyongyang on exchanging liaison offices, the first step toward normalizing relations.

Pilot said he wanted to crash into White House

DURING the past year, Frank Eugene Corder's life had begun to unravel — his small trucking company failed, his father died and his 10-year marriage had just recently collapsed.

Monday, relatives of the Aberdeen, Md., man said the 39-year-old Corder had even spoken of a desire to crash a plane into the White House, though apparently no one took him seriously.

At the one-story Aberdeen home where Corder spent his childhood years, his older brother, John Corder, came outside, at times holding back tears while he sketched out the details of his younger brother's life.

"He said, 'If I'm going to check out, that's the way I'm going to do it. I'm going to crash a plane into the White House,'" John Corder said of a phone call he had received from his brother about a year ago. "We thought it was a joke."

John Corder said he received another call from his younger brother Frank a few days ago but declined to take it because he suspected his brother might have been drinking, or had landed himself in jail.

Corder said he learned recently that his brother had separated from his wife, but he said he had no indication that his brother wanted to kill the president.

"He knew how to fly," his brother said. "It wasn't some crazy guy who said, 'Hey let's take off... and do this.' He was smart as hell."

As John Corder looked for signs that might explain further what led to his brother's fatal pre-dawn crash onto the White House lawn, their mother, Dorothy Corder, stayed inside, declining to speak to the throng of reporters gathered outside her door. John Corder described his brother as a quiet man who kept his opinions to himself, became more religious in recent years, and rarely spoke of politics.

Lately, however, Frank Corder had come upon hard times, problems that may have aggravated what relatives and court records show was a long struggle with drugs and alcohol.

"When he goes in the dumps,

LIZ SPAYD and JUSTIN BLUM

WASHINGTON



Frank Corder, who crashed his plane into the White House.

he'd crawl in the bottle," said brother John.

Maryland motor vehicle records show Corder was convicted of driv-

ing while intoxicated last year, and as a result had his license suspended and attended a seven-day inpatient alcohol detoxification program.

"He actually seemed like he was interested in getting help, unlike some people who come in," said nurse Joan Copeland, who treated Corder at the Perry Point Veterans Administration Medical Center. "He was very quiet. He did well. If there were any rules he followed them."

Corder's wife, Lydia, works at the facility as a nurse and the couple lived in a white, two-story clapboard home in a quiet neighborhood on the medical center grounds.

Relatives say Frank Corder's relationship with his wife had been a rocky one. The couple broke up for several years before ultimately getting back together. Corder had also been married twice before, and according to his brother has one daughter from a previous marriage.

His first cousin Dee George, of Havre de Grace, Md., said Corder was distraught over the separation

from his wife.

"Frank has been down on drugs and alcohol before. He told me that sometimes... he just wished he had a gun," she said.

Corder said his brother dropped out of Aberdeen High School in 10th grade, but subsequently earned a graduate equivalency degree.

Following college, he worked odd jobs, driving trucks and building homes, John Corder said.

During the Vietnam years, Frank Corder joined the military and received training to be a generator mechanic. But after six months, he dropped out of the army without ever having served in Vietnam.

Federal Aviation Administration officials declined to discuss Corder's flying experience, referring calls to the Secret Service.

But sources say he had very limited experience as a pilot, receiving a student's license only last year.

The sources said that Corder had only 50 hours flying time — making him a novice pilot with minimal experience. A typical commercial pilot, by contrast, has at least 3,000 hours flying time and usually much more.

The Washington Post

Mitterrand delayed war-crime probes

PARIS (AP) — French President Francois Mitterrand came under fire yesterday after admitting he slowed investigations of alleged war criminals to avoid risking civil conflict.

Socialist allies, however, came to Mitterrand's defense, calling his 90-minute interview on national television Monday night a bold and sincere attempt to set the record straight in the twilight of his career.

Judicial proceedings against former officials of the collaborationist Vichy government, which aided the Nazis in deporting Jews to death camps during World War II, have dragged on for years as France struggled with its wartime past.

Asked in the interview Monday night whether he put the brakes on certain probes, Mitterrand said: "Absolutely. It's true, but those kinds of judicial procedures reopened all the wounds."

Mitterrand, 77 and suffering from prostate cancer as he prepares to end his term in May, said it was his duty "to try to appease the eternal civil wars between the French."

He referred to Vichy as well as rightists' violent efforts to prevent



French President Francois Mitterrand prepares to meet the press on Monday. (Reuters)

France from granting Algeria independence in 1962.

"This revelation is important because it explains the length of the investigations," Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld told French TV. Klarsfeld said it took 10 years to put together a case against Jean

Leguay, a former Vichy police official who died in 1989, before he could be tried.

He said it took 12 years to bring charges against Maurice Papon, head of the national police in Bordeaux during the war, who is charged with crimes against humanity for deporting 1,690 Jews.

"By presidential admission, I now understand better the difficulty victims' families had in obtaining reparations for what they suffered in the war," said Gerard Boulanger, a lawyer representing the families. "And now we understand better why Papon has still not been judged."

Mitterrand said in the interview Monday that he would not have interfered with a trial of Rene Bousquet, the former Vichy police chief killed by a publicity-seeking gunman in June 1993 before he could be tried for crimes against humanity.

Klarsfeld contended Mitterrand had tried to interfere before the case was heard.

"The procedure could have lasted much longer, but the Criminal Appeals Court of Paris rejected the intrusion by the executive that asked that it be judged by the High Court of Justice," he said.

Klarsfeld also said he was "effectively unsatisfied" by Mitterrand's explanation for associating with Bousquet after the war. The president argued that while Bousquet was convicted of war crimes, he was pardoned and had become influential in French business and government.

Historian Henri Amouroux said Mitterrand knew very well what Bousquet had done during World War II.

"You had to be really blind and deaf not to know in 1947, '48, '49 and afterward, the role played by Bousquet," he said.

After facing years of criticism from Jewish and Resistance groups, Mitterrand last year stopped having a wreath placed at the tomb of Marshal Philippe Petain, the former Vichy leader.

UN conference adopts population blueprint

CAIRO (AP) — With reservations from Moslems and Roman Catholics, some 180 nations adopted a 20-year blueprint yesterday to slow the world's population explosion. Now, it's up to individual nations to come up with money to put it into action.

The Vatican, which was in the forefront of debates on abortion and reproductive health, surprised many delegates by announcing partial support for a UN population plan for the first time. The Holy See rejected the final documents at the 1974 and 1984 UN population conferences.

What made the 1994 UN population conference different was its focus on the empowerment of

going to adjourn, you're doing well."

Underlying the conference is the record growth in world population — now increasing by more than 90 billion people a year. The current population of 5.7 billion is projected to hit 10 billion by 2050.

Delegates set a \$17 billion annual funding target to finance the Plan of Action by the year 2000 — one-third coming from developed countries and two-thirds from developing nations.

Current spending is less than \$6 billion a year, and development experts and delegates said it will be very difficult to reach this target. African countries have al-

Three million babies born during Cairo conference

CAIRO (Reuters) — In the eight days, eight hours and 45 minutes of the UN population conference in Cairo, about 3,056,000 babies were born into the world — an average of about four babies every second.

Over the same period about 1,167,000 people died, leaving a net increase of 1,889,000.

The organizers of the conference set up a "demographic clock" outside one of the main meeting rooms but the world population it displayed varied wildly from day to day.

The United Nations estimates the present population of the world at 5,677 billion, heading for six billion in 1998.

women and economic development as the keys to slowing population growth — two concepts which the Vatican supported. Research has shown that educated women with higher status have fewer children.

Chief US delegate Timothy Wirth said "a spirit of Cairo" had emerged which spanned every continent and recognized the need for a comprehensive approach to the challenge of rapid population growth for the first time.

"I think it was a remarkable agreement and an extraordinary consensus," he said. "I come out of United States politics where if you can get 180 members of Congress to agree on the time they're

ready said it's impossible to pay two-thirds of the cost."

Next month, the Program of Action will be submitted to the UN General Assembly for approval. It will also be taken home by delegates to every country. It is not legally binding, but it does carry "moral weight" and gives new ammunition to politicians and private groups lobbying for implementation.

The most hotly disputed topic at the nine-day meeting — abortion, reproductive health and family reunification for migrants — were the issues where delegates expressed serious reservations at the conference's final session.

But the numbers were small — a total of about 24 countries on both issues. And it was not clear whether all were formal reservations or just clarifications by governments. Conference officials said a final list of countries expressing reservations was not available.

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THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Director-General

Open House at the President's Residence - Hol Hamo'ed Succot 5755

An open house will be held at the President's Residence on Thursday, September 22, 1994, 2nd day of Succot (17 Tishre 5755).

The President will receive guests from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Visitors are required to present an identity card or passport at the entrance.

No weapons, bags or packages will be allowed in the building.

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Doors will be closed at 1:30 p.m. sharp.



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Additional details are available from:
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The Department for Upanim, Haifa Region: Tel. 04-681318-9
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Sinn Fein officials meet with Irish government

DUBLIN (Reuters) - The IRA's Sinn Fein political wing met Irish officials yesterday in fresh talks bound to anger Northern Ireland's majority Protestant community which is feeling increasingly alienated by the pace of the peace process.

Sinn Fein's Irish Justice Minister Maire Geoghegan-Quinn discussed stepping up security with police chiefs after the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) tried to blow up a train at a Dublin rail station on Monday, injuring two people.

In Belfast, street violence broke out when angry Protestants clashed with police at the trial of a Catholic man charged with trying to kill an alleged Protestant extremist leader.

A Sinn Fein delegation, including chairman Tom Hartley, met Irish civil servants to discuss Prime Minister Albert Reynolds' plans for a cross-party and cross-border peace forum just 24 hours after Protestant extremists bombed Dublin.

"The meeting was useful and productive," Anne Speed of the Sinn Fein delegation said after the talks without elaborating.

The Forum for Peace and Reconciliation is meant to group Irish and Northern Irish political parties including Sinn Fein. Unionist parties have scorned invitations from Reynolds to join the forum and are discussing setting up their own.

Opposition Irish politicians warned that the meeting could send the wrong signals to Northern Ireland's Protestants.

Unionists were particularly angered by Reynolds' landmark meeting with Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, only days after the IRA declared its cease-fire following 25

years of fighting. British rule in Northern Ireland.

The UVF, bitterly opposed to a united Ireland and outraged at Reynolds' meeting with Adams, said in its message claiming responsibility for Monday's attack that Northern Ireland would not be "coerced, forced or persuaded into a united Ireland."

Police said only the detonator of the bomb went off. "It could have caused carnage, death and destruction and obviously we have to evaluate very carefully what went wrong from their point of view," Geoghegan-Quinn said.

Speaking on Irish radio, she appealed to Protestant unionist politicians to persuade so-called loyalist gunmen, who want to remain loyal to Britain, to come into line with the Irish Republican Army cease-fire.

"There is a huge onus of responsibility on unionist politicians to encourage, cajole... loyalist paramilitaries to lay down their arms so that everybody can get around the conference table and join in the democratic process," she said.

Frustration among some Protestants boiled over into violence when a man appeared in a Belfast court charged with killing a Protestant. Masked men threatened police and overturned and burned a van, while gangs of women jeered at troops, who eventually brought the disturbance under control.

A senior police officer stressed that the "traces" had nothing to do with the IRA cease-fire. Similar incidents have occurred at the courthouse in past months.

Three dead, 70 injured as strike hits Indian state

LUCKNOW, India (Reuters) - Indian police hunted two Hindu nationalist politicians accused of killing Moslem opponents during clashes yesterday, a day of high tension in Uttar Pradesh state over government employment policy.

A senior official told reporters that Banwari Lal Dobhe, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member, was shot dead near a police station in the state capital, Lucknow, during a confrontation during a strike called by the government to support a controversial jobs plan.

Uttar Pradesh Home (Interior) Secretary A.P. Singh told reporters Pathan was shot near the city.

of Kanpur during a dispute over whether a local market should be shut down.

Dobhe had vanished and was being hunted by police.

In Ferozabad near Agra, site of the Taj Mahal, a Moslem leader of the ruling Samajwadi Party, named as Ashfaq, was killed and a legislator, Nasimuddin, wounded when they were protesting against a BJP official, Singh said. He said the gunman, Ram Kumar, had fled and was being sought.

He added that Ferozabad was placed under curfew to try to avoid further violence.

LESIE SHEPHERD
MONTREAL

Quebec separatists win election



Parti Quebecois leader Jacques Parizeau, accompanied by his wife, makes his way through a crowd of supporters after his party won the elections on Monday.

THE separatist Parti Quebecois won a solid majority of seats in Quebec's provincial election, but its 45 percent share of the popular vote was hardly a carte blanche for independence.

The Parti Quebecois, led by hard-line separatist Jacques Parizeau, won 77 of the 125 seats in the Quebec legislature Monday. Provincial Premier Daniel Johnson's Liberal Party captured 47 seats and the small Democratic Action Party took one.

Many opinion polls had forecast a stronger showing by the separatists and a thorough thrashing of the Liberals for failing to deliver on economic prosperity.

Instead, voters in the French-speaking province opted only for change and indicated they'd think about independence later. In the popular vote, the Parti Quebecois won only 45 percent, a single percentage point ahead of the Liberals, with 44 percent.

A 1980 referendum on independence failed 60 percent to 40 percent, and the lukewarm endorsement of the separatists Monday gave hope to many Canadians who would like to see the question of Quebec independence put to rest once and for all.

Parizeau has promised to hold another referendum on independence within a year. That doesn't

give him much time to pump up more enthusiasm.

"Mr. Parizeau has no mandate to use government powers to promote independence; no mandate to pass

motions affirming the will of Quebec to become independent; no

mandate to draft a constitution for an independent Quebec," Montreal's English-language daily, The

Gazette, wrote in an editorial yesterday.

"While he will have the power to do all that, he will have no moral authority. And Quebecers know

that." "There will not be an apocalypse," wrote the French-Language newspaper La Presse. "The Parizeau government will be forced to act rapidly because it will have to prove it is capable of ruling along in the affairs of state."

Independence would have an enormous impact on the rest of the 127-year-old Canadian federation. The four small Atlantic Ocean provinces would be physically cut off from the rest of the country, and the division could intensify independence sentiments in other provinces that also feel mistreated by the national government in Ottawa.

Flushed with excitement Monday, the 64-year-old Parizeau said he was ready to fight the battle he's been preparing for all his political life.

"The history of the people of Quebec has been a long one, often a complicated one," he told cheering supporters in Quebec City, the provincial capital.

"It has been difficult at times to know where the normalcy of things could be found," he said. "But now we are becoming a normal people. Together, with confidence, Quebecers are embarking on a new chapter of history."

Johnson, 49, whose party held power for nine years, has warned that separation would cause political turmoil and economic collapse.

About 80 percent of the 4.8 million eligible voters cast their ballots. (AP)

British soldiers held in Cyprus kidnapping

LARNACA, Cyprus (Reuters) -

Three British soldiers were remanded in custody by a Cypriot court yesterday evening after a police official quoted one of the men as confessing they had killed and buried a Danish woman tour guide.

Police said they were still searching for the body of 23-year-old Louise Jensen who, according to the Cypriot man she was traveling with, was knocked off their motorbike, beaten with a spade by one of the soldiers and then abducted in their car.

Famagusta Chief Inspector Marcos Christou told the court in the southern resort town of Larnaca that police were treating the

case as kidnapping and pre-meditated murder.

He asked that the three soldiers - Alan Ford, Justin Fowler and Jeff Parnell of the First Battalion, Royal Greenjackets - be remanded in custody for eight days. The judge gave his assent.

Christou quoted coroner Marios Matsakis who examined the three men as saying Fowler had told him they had killed Jensen and buried her.

Police accompanied Fowler to the alleged grave but nothing was found, Christou said, quoting Fowler as saying it was dark at the time and he could not remember the exact spot.

Former US treasurer sentenced to four months in jail

WASHINGTON (AP) - Former US Treasurer Catalina Vasquez Villalpando, whose signature appears on US currency printed during the Bush administration, was sentenced to four months in prison yesterday on tax evasion and other charges.

Villalpando was sentenced for failing to pay more than \$47,000 in

income tax, for obstruction of justice and for conspiring to hide income received from a former employer while she was treasurer.

Her signature appears on currency printed from December 1989 to April 1994. She could have been sentenced to up to five years in prison with a \$250,000 fine on each of three counts.

Moslems evacuated after Serb assault

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - United Nations military officers said yesterday that Serb shelling attacks in a northwest Bosnian enclave had forced the Moslem-led Bosnian army to evacuate civilians near a volatile front line.

Bosnian Serbs have fired hundreds of shells at Moslem-led troops in the Bihac enclave over the past two days, with the heaviest attacks reported near Otoka, northwest of Bihac town, a UN military spokesman said in Sarajevo.

The Bosnian Serb army (BSA) had fired most of the 900 artillery and mortar rounds recorded by the United Nations on Monday in some of the worst fighting the country has seen in weeks. UN Commander Eric Chaperon said.

The Bosnian army Fifth Corps had held its ground but had evacuated the civilian population from

Otoka, with the exception of old people and soldiers, Chaperon said.

"Otoka is not far away from the confrontation line and I suppose the Fifth Corps fears for the life of its population," Chaperon told reporters.

Some 20 civilians had been killed and 50 wounded by shell fire in the enclave in the past five days, the UN said.

In central Bosnia, Serbs shelled Moslem forces yesterday around the central town of Konjic, which straddles the main route to Sarajevo. UN Major Dacre Holloway said.

"There was heavy shelling south of Konjic and it looks as though there was BiH-BSA (Moslem-Serb) ground fighting in the area as well," Holloway said.

The Bihac enclave, a UN-declared safe area, came under as-

sault last week as Bosnian Serbs attacked from the east and Croatian Serb tanks crossed the Bosnian border to the north.

But Croatian Serb forces apparently have withdrawn from front lines in the Bihac pocket sometime over the past few days, Paul Riskey, a UN spokesman in Zagreb said.

However, Croatian Serb troops from the breakaway Krajina region appeared to be massing near the Moslem-held part of Bosnia, he said. Serbs apparently have their sights set on capturing a contested rail line held by the Moslems.

In Geneva, major powers seeking to force the Bosnian Serbs to agree to their peace plan met yesterday to discuss sending international observers to verify rump Yugoslavia's blockade of its former proteges.

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We had been told, on leaving our native soil, that we were going to defend the sacred rights conferred on us by so many of our citizens settled overseas, so many years of our presence, so many benefits brought by us to populations in need of our assistance and our civilization.

We were able to verify that all this was true, and, because it was true, we did not hesitate to shed our quota of blood, to sacrifice our youth and our hopes. We regretted nothing, but whereas we over here are inspired by this frame of mind, I am told that in Rome factions and conspiracies are rife, that treachery flourishes, and that many people in their uncertainty and confusion lend a ready ear to the dire temptation of relinquishment. . . Make haste to reassure me, I beg you, and tell me that our fellow-citizens understand us, support us and protect us as we ourselves have (protected them).

If it should be otherwise, if we should have to leave our bleached bones on these desert sands in vain, then beware of the anger of the Legions!

Marcus Flavinius, Centurion of the Augusta Legion,
quoted by Jean Lartéguy in *The Centurions*

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A speedy investigation

THE exhausting *sharav* heat will be uppermost on many people's minds as they begin the Yom Kippur fast this evening. Even for those looking to put aside all temporal thoughts on this most solemn day of the Jewish calendar, the practical advice provided on Page 1 by health reporter Judy Siegel should not be ignored.

Yom Kippur provides a natural opportunity for stocktaking. The recent arrests of Kiryat Arba residents on suspicion of belonging to a Jewish terror cell is one such subject which requires careful, and non-partisan, deliberation.

Despite all the leaks emanating from various security officials concerning their alleged offenses, it must first be stated that all those presently under arrest, until they are charged and convicted, have to be presumed innocent. At the same time, if the group is charged and convicted of conspiring to murder Arabs, as various reports claim, then those convicted must face the full severity of the law.

Terror, be it Arab or Jewish, must be given no quarter. Israel cannot afford to be seen acting leniently towards Jewish citizens who have chosen to put themselves above the law. Such leniency would only harm the country's fight against Palestinian terrorism - a struggle in which the Palestinian Authority is not pulling its full weight.

For democracies, the war against terror often involves infringing rights that are normally considered basic: the right of an arrested person to a lawyer and the right to contact one's family, to name two. But there are red lines that must not be crossed, and that includes the torture of prisoners during investigation, as the Landau Commission

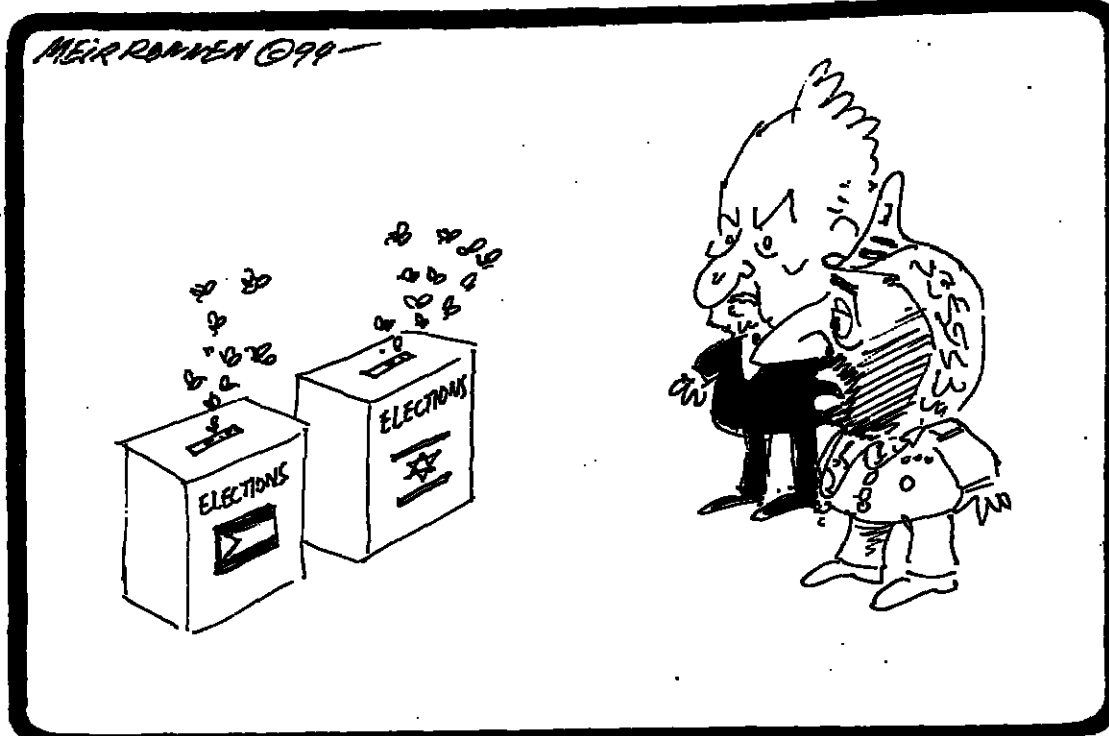
has ruled.

The Justice Ministry, and MK Ori Orr, head of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, both said allegations made by family members and settlement leaders that Lt. Oren Edri had been tortured to obtain a confession were completely untrue. The Justice Ministry's statement followed an investigation by Eran Shendar, head of the Justice Ministry's unit for investigating policemen, which included Shendar's meeting Edri. Orr's remarks came after a briefing yesterday by the acting head of the General Security Service on Shendar's findings. Orr said the acting GSS chief had assured the committee that Shendar found all of Edri's allegations to be false: He was not tortured; he was not investigated with a sack over his head; and there were no rats in his cell.

Unfortunately, the GSS's past record is not spotless, and there are those who are skeptical as to Shendar's findings. But even if there are grounds for further questioning, politicians and settlement leaders should be wary of attempting to make political capital out of the arrests.

The war against terror is a fight in which all Israelis have to share, and it is a non-partisan battle. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin should press the security forces in charge of the investigation of the Hebron and Kiryat Arba residents to bring it to a speedy conclusion, not only so that justice can be done, but to lessen the investigation's accompanying tensions.

If one sector of the population begins to believe that the security forces no longer serve them and cannot be trusted, one of the foundations of Israeli society will begin to crumble.



The Syrian peace train

PRESIDENT Assad let our government down. He didn't declare at the weekend - as agreed in advance - that he was ready for normalization with Israel after peace.

Israel had received prior notice that Assad would discuss peace in his address to the Syrian parliament. But while he was supposed to clarify his stand on the character of peace - according to signals received in Jerusalem - he used only vague terms:

"Syria understands that peace has objective requirements, and Syria will carry out these requirements according to its understanding from the moment there is agreement on them."

In this way, Assad kept open the option of being the one to define the meaning of "objective requirements." And he was very careful not to use the Israeli terminology concerning diplomatic ties and normalization.

Saturday's address was not the first time Assad has spoken publicly about peace with Israel and about the need to proceed with the political process.

This latest statement is part of Syria's new strategy to ensure US support for Damascus and undermine the special status Israel enjoys in Washington. Syria knows that to achieve this and remove Western constraints because of its support of terrorist organizations, it must talk peace.

I cannot identify with Foreign Minister Peres's excitement on hearing Assad's declaration that "despite the difficulties and lack of progress which persists, there is a degree of hope that peace will be attained. We shall work to encourage that hope."

Assad is proceeding wisely, trying to convince the US that he wants peace and that only Israel is blocking its achievement. He plays down his other statements,

MOSHE ZAK

which insist on Israeli withdrawal to the last centimeter, as well as his refusal to entertain the notion of territorial compromise.

What Assad is demanding is full withdrawal. He will not negotiate on this.

THE SYRIAN leader is working

By now, Israel should have learned that what Assad says isn't what he means

on the assumption that his statements about peace will slowly erode Israeli public opinion. And he is certain that his refusal to concede even a single centimeter on the Golan will force Israel, which wants to announce an Israeli-Syrian accommodation within six months - to accept his stand.

In no hurry to say anything explicit about normal relations with Israel, Assad is equally reluctant to end talks with Israel. He needs the atmosphere of a political process to foster Syria's negotiations with the US and the West.

The Syrian foreign minister was in London last week - not to give Israeli reporters a scoop with talk of "a warm peace" or release news of an inevitable Rabin-Assad meeting - but to demand that Britain lift its embargo against Syria after doing so with Israel.

The British press described the minister's news conference as a harsh attack against Israeli obstinacy, stressing the statement that

an Assad-Rabin meeting wouldn't be on the cards before Israel's evacuation of the entire Golan.

Britain's foreign secretary expressed no surprise that the Syrian general responsible for the plot to blow up an El Al plane in London had been promoted to commander of the Syrian air force. Instead, he promised his Syrian counterpart that Britain would recommend the lifting of sanctions against Syria to the European Union.

Syria is trying hard to get itself off the US list of states which sponsor terrorism. The State Department's report, issued at the beginning of this summer, detailed all the terrorist organizations which receive financial and operational assistance from Syria.

Public Israeli statements about Syria's "moderation" and its readiness for peace can only help Damascus get what it wants from the US.

Syria, out to get American technology and weapons, is keen to silence any Israeli criticism of its aggressive tendencies, as expressed in its accelerated rearmament. Even if the Syrian war option isn't too plausible, Assad is not letting go of the option of deception, which he practiced on the eve of the Yom Kippur War.

He is trying to mislead Israel, which wants real peace, into believing he is heading for a peace settlement. But a peace treaty? That remains a dream.

Anyone reading the latest Syrian statements will discern a warning that there will be no peace if Jerusalem doesn't go to the Arabs. Israel's establishment, meanwhile, is locked into the concept that the peace Assad refers to is the peace it desires.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

Disease's dire foe

JACOB SCHREIBER

SIX years ago, when cancer struck me at age 25, there wasn't much anyone could do to convince me there were any silver linings.

Still, my good friends dutifully tried to encourage me, insisting I'd "be a better person when it was all over." It was a hard message to swallow while death stared over my shoulder.

But come this Yom Kippur, exactly five years after my last chemotherapy treatment for Hodgkin's disease, I'll be considered medically cured.

Which means that those silver linings people told me about during the longest winter of my life do exist. In fact, they are now woven into the fabric of my being.

They include: a heightened appreciation of life and its symphony of blessings; a strong sense of what is important and what is mere vanity; and an acute understanding of how limited our time on this earth is.

That said, I'm still as prone to fits of stupidity as anyone, coveting my neighbor's cottage, skewing in my own stress and complaining about anything and everything.

Don't coddle those with cancer. Help heal them with love and human kindness

But then I catch myself. And shame embarrasses me into snapping the hell out of my sour moods. I simply think back to the days when my head spent a good part of its time in a bucket and the fear of dying brought me close to mental collapse.

This Yom Kippur, as I pass the finish line of my five-year "danger period," I feel the need to thank not only the spirits who watch(ed) over me, but also to let a lot of wonderful people know how much they helped me make it through.

Nothing beats the healing power of human kindness and love. I know they gave me strength when I feared I couldn't go on. And they continue to do so when I despair today.

I BET someone you know out there has cancer and is in need of your support. (One out of every three Americans will contract some form of cancer - malignant or benign - by the year 2000; the figure is a little lower for Israelis.) I thought that maybe I could lend some hope - and some insight on how to help.

First: reassurance. Cancer isn't a death sentence. Some cancers are more "beatable," percentage-wise, than others, but the combination of modern medicine, alternative treatments and emotional support from family and friends is helping save more people than ever before.

Second: there's plenty you can do to help. Though you may feel powerless, the emotional support you lend acts as a powerful elixir. But support, too, must be given in proper doses. Cancer patients don't need to be overly coddled. I found that too much attention kept on reminding me that something was really wrong - even when I had forgotten.

While it's hard to put an exact measure on the "right" amount of support, the best you can do is make sure your loved one is comfortable; help with daily chores when these become physically taxing; provide heavy doses of encouragement, warm touches or caresses, and lend a tireless ear.

Last: people tend to treat cancer victims with a kind of awe. Don't. We're not doing anything special by just trying to survive. We have no choice. It may be true that we come face to face with our own mortality, learning just how far we can stretch our physical, emotional and mental limits when pushed. But our soldiers and road-accident victims learn that way too early as well.

The human ability to endure is incredible. Survivors of the Holocaust, to whose suffering mine does not compare, bear witness to the simple fact that "life wants to live," as Elie Wiesel once wrote.

So the real heroes in the fight against cancer are not the victims, but the families, friends, and all the well-wishers who pop out of the woodwork to help us. It is you who endure your loved ones' pain, often without treating your own emotional anguish. It is you who extend yourselves when you don't really have to.

This Yom Kippur, I'll finally have the luxury of praying for speedy recoveries for all my fellow cancer victims. But I'll also be praying for all of you who prayed for me.

Thanks. The writer lives in Jerusalem, and is writing a book on cancer. He and his wife Edna are expecting their first child this December.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Sir, - When I saw that *The Jerusalem Post* was again writing articles dealing with the subject of domestic violence, I was hardly surprised to see that, once again, the articles were little more than feminist tripe. All the essential elements were there:

The main article title presented women as the blameless, perennial victims *à la* Blanche DuBois.

The articles were written by a female journalist.

The articles presented domestic violence as a problem that affects women.

The articles opened with stories of victimized women and proceeded to quote one woman after the next.

The articles decried the impotence of the legal system in dealing with the problem.

Only a very few token males were quoted in the lead article, and even then, the quotes were apologetic or were intended to point out the hypocrisy of the system.

Domestic violence is not exclusively a women's problem, and that is precisely why Na'amat, WIZO, and any number of other women's organizations repeatedly fail in their attempt to do anything to eliminate the problem.

The current system does not work, and it probably never will, because it starts with the assumption that men and women are natural enemies and that the law has to be called in to pull them apart. If there is a way to resolve the problem, more laws, stiffer sentences, greater police protection, will not help, nor will more battered women's shelters nor better systems of reporting abusive spouses to the authorities. The 1991 Law for the Prevention of Family Violence has proven to be just another in trying to show the husband who's boss by locking him out of the house by court order. As the lead article implied, such a lockout is often throwing fat into the fire; a man who has been locked out of his house is usually far more than a bit vindictive, particularly if his wife made a fraudulent claim.

When violence erupts in the home, calling the police or going to court will not treat the problem; such an act only responds to an isolated symptom of it. Some of the possible causes could be:

An unemployed spouse;
A chronically ill family member;
Interference from in-laws;

Difficulty in getting by financially;
Cultural differences;
Problems with children.

Any one of these problems could generate a potentially violent scenario, and flexing legal muscle will only exacerbate the situation. The only alternative seems to be in "other social services." The beleaguered legal system should be relieved of its duties. The problem is a social problem, not a legal one, and certainly not confined to the female sex alone. What would make far more sense would be to create a separate system to deal with families in which violent or potentially violent situations exist and to render assistance to the persons trapped in these situations.

Part of the problem is that Israeli society is very macho. A man, in the eyes of the law in Israel, has only obligations: to his wife, to his children, to the army, to his job, to the tax office, etc. The notion that a man might take upon himself an "unmanly" task, such as caring for his children, is simply not acceptable, and the legal system sees to it that the old role typing is rigidly maintained. The proof of this legal perception can be seen in any divorce case: the mother is always considered the favored parent except if she is proven to be incompetent or if she consents to give her husband custody, and she is never regarded as having financial obligations towards her children. Many a man who has been separated from his children has come to reconsider the virtues of a macho society, and while he might agree with the feminists that he would like a more egalitarian society, the feminists would never agree to waive the advantages a macho society offers them. In Israel, such a double standard shows no signs of going away soon.

A.B.
(Name and address supplied)
Tel Aviv.

RABBI'S VIEWS

Sir, - I read with consternation and surprise the story headlined, "Rabbi willing to trade Gush Etzion for peace" (August 24). The implication of the headline, admittedly somewhat ameliorated by the body of the article, was that I am presently advocating such an exchange. This is wholly misleading and at variance with my views - as indeed expressed in the very source upon which you drew.

AHARON LICHTENSTEIN
Alon Shvut.

SECULAR ISRAELI CULTURE

Sir, - Moshe Kohn ("Of heretics and ignorance," August 19) may well be right. Many secular Israelis don't know much about their religious heritage. However, this seems to me to be a perfectly normal and natural development which may have its sad aspects, but on the whole is quite positive. Secular Israelis have a secular culture which is an integral part of their lives and takes up a great deal of their time and interest, which means less time for and interest in the religious heritage of the past.

In view of the tone of Mr. Kohn's article, a few remarks on secular Israeli culture are called for:

Over the past 80 years or so, a vital Hebrew culture has emerged in Israel in which prose, poetry, drama, song, dance, music, painting and sculpture and a respected Hebrew journalistic tradition have flourished.

This cultural achievement is one of the most remarkable and creative aspects of Zionist and Israeli endeavor. It is just as Jewish and just as much a part of the Jewish heritage as is our religious heritage - and for most people much more relevant.

In all this creativity, which includes the revival of Hebrew as an everyday language, religious Jews have played almost no part.

Nearly all that has been achieved has been the work of secular Jews of the sort Mr. Kohn would doubtless dismiss as "ignorant heretics" or "ignoramuses."

I believe that one of our sages of blessed memory used to say: The essence of wisdom is modesty.

NACHUM APPLETON
Ra'anana.

THE MACHPELA CAVE

Sir, - In order to impress the world, the IDF, on instructions of Mr. Rabin, managed to complete the preparations for the Eilat-Akaba crossing in a few days. However, for Jews in the so-called Jewish State to pray on their High Holy Days at the Machpela Cave, in what was King David's capital before Jerusalem itself, the IDF is unable to complete restoration and security arrangements even in six months. It will now open only after all the Jewish High Holy Days.

How the mighty have fallen!
EMANUEL FISCHER
Jerusalem.

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Kadoumi: Storm over 'destroy Israel' remarks are Zionist manipulation

THE London-based *Alwasat* newspaper interviewed Farouk Kadoumi, head of the PLO's political department, who was quoted recently as calling for the destruction of Israel.

Q: Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin described your recent speech in Algeria regarding "the destruction of Israel" as a gross violation of the Israel-PLO accords. What is your response?

A: Rabin's words represent an attempt to squeeze more out of the Palestinian side. We have entered a peace process while we are committed at the same time to the UN Security Council and the principle of "land for peace." We still say our people have the right to continue standing in opposition as long as there is an occupation of our land.

I repeatedly have expressed my reservations about the agreement we have signed, because it denies the Palestinian people legitimate rights that are internationally established.

We ask for the realization of the rights protected by these laws – the dismantling of the settlements in accordance with Security Council Resolution 465, plus withdrawal from Jerusalem and recognition of the illegal nature of its annex-

ation, as per Resolution 478. The Zionist media are trying to misrepresent our words in order to create excuses to impose their own views regarding the agreements. Our people will continue to struggle with all of its strength to restore our rights and establish an independent Palestinian state whose capital is Jerusalem.

The Palestine National Assembly approved the establishment of this state, and I, as foreign minister of Palestine, was elected by the assembly to defend its decisions and carry them out.

Yasser Arafat said in response to your declaration calling for the destruction of Israel that your words did not reflect the PLO's views.

This is the position of the PLO. Does this mean there is a difference of opinion between you and Abu Amar (Arafat)?

The chairman himself spoke about "the destruction of Israel." I did not use this expression. Instead, I said that Israel was established counter to the flow of history.

But the Israel news agency quoted you as follows: "There is a national entity which should be destroyed."

I did not use the word "de-



stroyed." I said it was a state established counter to the flow of history, and it will cease to exist as other entities have. The Israeli newspaper *Davar* emphasized in one of its editions in 1991 that Israel is a small and feeble country that has no natural resources and is a burden borne by the United States.

Since the Palestine-Israeli agreement was signed, have you been asked to meet any senior Israeli personalities and, if so, have you refused?

It is so. I was asked to and I refused, saying clearly that it is incumbent on Israel to recognize the principle of the refugees' right of return. There is no place for such contacts unless Israel recognizes the right of return after a full withdrawal.

All the refugees or half of them?

All of them. And I mean the refugees of 1948. This is the principal task to be carried out by the political department of the PLO.

What is the reason for the despair which has seized Arafat?

The reason for his despair is the situation in the occupied territories.

Do you maintain coordination and continuous contact with Arafat?

I maintain continuous contact with Yasser Arafat.

(*Alwasat*, London, Aug. 31)

ARAFAT was not upset by the criticism Rabin meted out over Kadoumi's statement, according to sources in the Palestinian leadership.

Arafat's complacency stems from a recent meeting with Kadoumi in Tunis at which the two agreed on separate roles.

Arafat will explain the need to convene the Palestine National Assembly to render void certain sections of the National Charter; Kadoumi will harden his opposition to this and demand the full realization of the Oslo Accords and an Israeli clarification of its position on Jerusalem – following the controversy over the (Israel-Jordan) Washington Declaration.

The purpose of the separate roles is to buy time and avoid convening the assembly.

The sources said Arafat and Kadoumi discussed their joint concerns about what role Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazan) is expected to fill.

Their concern centers on his apparent status as a favorite with Israelis, demonstrated by invitations he has received from President Ezer Weizman, Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The sources said Arafat and Kadoumi resent the honor and trust being shown Abbas by senior Israelis, while relations between themselves and the Israeli leadership are in crisis and devoid of either confidence or respect.

The crisis of confidence derives from angry exchanges between Rabin and Arafat at their Erez checkpoint meeting and, in Kadoumi's case, because Peres refused to see him late in 1992 and early in 1993. Kadoumi had made a secret bid to set up a meeting in Paris.

The sources said Palestinians interpret this as an expression of Peres's lack of confidence in Kadoumi.

(*Al Bilad*, Jordan, Sep. 1)

Beirut '94: Ritz alongside the rubble

DOUG STRUCK
BEIRUT

THE Beautiful People are back at the St. Georges Yacht Club, basked by the pool and lapped on the tennis courts.

They switch from French to Arabic to English, urbane chatter all the more incongruous for its setting. The yacht club sits amid concrete skeletons of battle, the pocked and burned cityscape of the suicidal civil war of Lebanon.

But then, this is Beirut. Its red-painted nails never were totally obscured by the grime of war. Lebanon's capital city is being reborn after the 15-year civil war that ended in 1990, including the Israeli invasion of 1982, Beirut today is a work zone of jackhammers and bulldozers and construction cranes. This is a city changing shape. The contest now is between construction and destruction: are the old buildings coming down fast enough for the new ones going up?

The ambitious rebuilding plan pushed by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri is billed as the largest such public project anywhere in this decade. It will redevelop a 1,600-dunam (400-acre) swath of central downtown largely gutted by the fighting.

Buildings grotesquely dismembered in battle still fill the core of the city. Many are stunning monuments to arms manufacturing, their thick cement walls pocked with thousands of bullets and shrapnel, as though rotted by a cancer. But new granite bank complexes and balconied apartment high-rises are beginning to replace the shattered shells.

To an occasional visitor, this blossoming is a curiously mixed emergence. Here there is a heady rush to reclaim the good life. The swank boutiques have multiplied. Jazz rocks in the Blue Note Cafe. Sleek sports cars and cellular phones are de rigueur.

But here, too, there is the sordid slag of war. The squatters huddled over makeshift stoves inside destroyed buildings. The lean and hungry men from the countryside roaming city streets in search of work. The plunging darkness of the city when the power goes off.

Beirut always revealed in wicked contrasts. It was a bit of Europe in the Middle East. It was feline and French food, Arab robes and Guinness. Tired of the Christians? Cross town to the Moslems. Tired of them both? Climb the mountain to the Druse. Tired of the mountains? Go down to the sea.

Even in war, Beirutis defied economic logic by buying extravagant luxuries. Maybe they had no electricity, but they had baubles and silk.

Eighty percent of the economy was wrecked in the war. Now, more than 380 contracts have been awarded to companies to rebuild. They are starting to demolish hun-

dreds of broken buildings, rehabilitate 1,200 schools, rebuild the electric system, the water supply, the sewage and waste disposal, fix the roads.

Crumbling about the redevelopment is the new city sport. Lebanese believe if there is so much business going on, somebody must be getting their imagination that any program – especially a government one – might be honest.

Their suspicions gather easily about the millionaire prime minister, Hariri. He is a contractor who has invested \$125 million of his own money in the redevelopment project. Of course, the Lebanese Parliament chose him in November 1992 for just that reason, hoping he would bring his money and background to save Beirut.

Mohammed Mustafa Hamiya lives across the road from Martyrs Square in the center of the war-ravaged old downtown area, but he does not share in the boom from all the activity going on there.

He watches another damaged building brought down with a tremendous clap of explosives. Acrid smoke wafts into the first-floor flat in which he squats with his family.

This flat was riddled by shells in the war, and its owners have not reappeared. Hamiya and his family of nine now stay in two rooms on the ground floor. He came here a few years ago from rural Baalbek in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, because there are no jobs there.

Now, a driver for a soap company, he earns \$125 a month, this in a city where nothing is cheap.

"It's not enough," he says dryly. He scrapes by only because he pays no rent to live in the abandoned building. His water and electricity are pirated through jury-rigged lines to the city utilities. He could be evicted tomorrow, he knows.

"I don't know where I would go," he says.

Others who fled Lebanon during the war are returning.

"I came back because it's a lot more exciting here," said Eyad Kayali. The hotel manager parlayed his skills and fluency in five languages into getting Canadian residency, but then returned to Beirut.

To those here, the clatter of construction is an encouraging sign. It is also a call to patience, as there are few other indications of improvement. The electricity still goes off six hours in every 12. The water comes only every third day. Prices are going up.

When the power quits, backstreet Beirut still can be spooky. Depthless shadows whisper old memories of danger. Only a few lone souls emerge in the dark, sliding past on urgent, mysterious missions. (Baltimore Sun)

Kuwait's population goals – a different twist

Egyptian women show up discriminatory laws at population parley

KATE DOURIAN
and SAMIA NAKHOUL

CAIRO

WHILE delegates to the UN International Conference on Population and Development this week grappled with wording of a document designed to slow population growth, Kuwait is paying its women to have more babies.

Kuwaiti women attending the conference said contraception and abortion are of no concern to them.

They were in Cairo primarily to plead the cause of the 625 prisoners of war they say were captured by Iraq during its 1990-91 occupation and are still being held.

The Kuwaiti government said after the Gulf War that it would never again allow non-Kuwaitis to be a majority in its population. The emirate now has a population of 1.77 million, which includes fewer than 700,000 citizens.

"Our aim is to unify the voice of Kuwaiti women at world forums like this one and solve the most difficult problem facing us, which is that of the POWs," said Hessa Shaheen of the Kuwaiti Women's League.

"We came here to understand the problem of women in the Arab and Moslem world, even though their biggest problem is population growth," said Shaheen, who is in Cairo with the Kuwaiti non-governmental delegation.

"We do not have this problem. By the year 2025, we will be three million people."

To achieve this target, the Kuwaiti government will pay increments to couples for each child



Delegates to the Nongovernmental Organizations conference, held in conjunction with the UN population conference in Cairo; Egyptian women activists proposed a marriage contract that would give women more rights and end discrimination. (AP)

conceived and offer longer maternity leave to working women.

In Egypt, women are obsessed with marrying; but when they do, many soon regret it. And those championing their cause say that in marriage and in divorce they suffer in a patriarchal society.

Egyptian women activists, working on the sidelines of the conference, are proposing a marriage contract that would give women more rights and end years of discrimination.

The Egyptian Gender and Equality and Women's Empowerment Committee says many women in Egypt are brought up with one goal in life, to become wives.

For them, marriage is the only legal avenue to have sex and attain status. But they gain little security and many end up frustrated and often physically abused, with no recourse to justice under what activists say are outdated laws.

"Men still treat women as their personal property," said activist Hoda Sada. "Women in Egypt are insecure in marriage and divorce. Once they are divorced, they are out on the streets, with no money or shelter. No law protects the woman's rights and obliges the husband to pay alimony."

The committee, set up for the UN conference, this week put a

14-point charter to the international nongovernmental organizations working with the conference.

One main point is a legal demand that a husband pay a stipulated amount of alimony in cases of divorce. Another is to ensure a man notifies his bride or wife in cases of polygamy.

The committee also wants a woman to have the right to divorce if the husband remarries without her permission, the right to seek a divorce whenever she wishes, and the right to work or travel without having to seek her husband's permission.

The committee is pushing for a change to say that a husband who divorces his wife without provocation after more than 15 years of marriage must give up the family home, even if her children are no longer in her custody. He should also provide financial compensation for divorcing her.

Recognizing that some wives might act unreasonably, the com-

mittee suggests that where such women ask for divorce without valid reasons, they would forfeit the right to alimony.

Sada said physical or psychological abuse, which research showed was common among the poor and the middle-class, was not considered grounds for divorce in Egypt.

"The court does not consider abuse as sufficient grounds for divorce," she said. "She has to have an eye gouged to get it."

Egyptian women are often victims of "crimes of honor." If a husband finds his wife sleeping with another man and kills her, he gets a suspended sentence. If a woman kills her husband for the same reason, she gets a maximum penalty, Sada said.

"The aim [of the proposals] is to spread awareness and to gradually develop the aging Personal Status Law," said Sarah Loza, head of the committee. "We know it is very difficult to make a sudden amendment of this law." (Reuters)

Iran warns France against backing Algeria

PARIS – Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani this week called on France to withdraw support from Algeria's government which is pitted against an Islamic fundamentalist revolt.

"Your government is backing the Algerian government like the United States backed the Shah [of Iran]. You saw what the result was: the United States is now discredited," Rafsanjani said in an interview in the newspaper *Le Figaro*.

Rafsanjani, who said there was no chance of repealing the death sentence against Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie, predicted the Algerian government would be overthrown by its Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) foes.

But he called on both sides in the Algerian conflict to refrain from violence. "We are against these massacres in Algeria. Those by the Islamists and those by the other side," he said.

Referring to Rushdie, Rafsanjani said: "There is no question of a pardon because the *fatwa* [religious edict] was pronounced against him. A cannot reverse this."

"It is not in the interest of the West to protect someone who has insulted a billion Moslems," Rafsanjani said. Rushdie has lived in hiding for years following the leveling of the Iranian edict against him for his book *The Satanic Verses*.

Rafsanjani denied his country was in any way responsible for assassinations of its opponents abroad or that it had any intention of acquiring nuclear weapons.

He said Iran would never have diplomatic ties with the US, Egypt or Israel and that Israel had no right to exist. Its population should leave, he said. (Reuters)

Turkish paper seized for interviewing Moslem terrorists

ANKARA – A court this week ordered the seizure of editions of a respected newspaper for publishing interviews with leaders of a Moslem fundamentalist terrorist group.

The leftist *Cumhuriyet* carried comments from two senior figures of the outlawed Islamic Raiders' Front of the Great East.

Cumhuriyet had recently accused security forces of leniency towards Moslem fundamentalists,

who have waged increasingly violent protests against Turkey's secular government.

Abraham Yildiz, a senior editor of *Cumhuriyet*, called the ruling by the state security court in Istanbul "a blow against press liberty."

Cumhuriyet, or Republic, has a low circulation of about 70,000, but it is highly respected and influential. The 71-year-old paper is the oldest operating daily in Turkey. (AP)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

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9

Avner reports NIS 108m. net loss in year's first half

AVNER Insurance, the consortium insurance company which compensates automobile accident victims, yesterday reported a net loss of NIS 107.9 million for the first half of the year.

The firm reported a net loss of NIS 185.05m. during the corresponding period last year.

Avner chairman Haim Stoessel said the company's accumulated deficit remained virtually unchanged for the first time in four years, rising to NIS 1,061b. from NIS 1,06b. at the end of last year and NIS 965m. at the end of 1992.

"Losses are significantly lower than the previous year but do not reflect a significant turnaround in Avner's business performance," said Stoessel.

He said a reduction in insurance claim payments to car accident victims as proposed in the amendment to the compensation law will reduce Avner's accumulated loss.

"The justice minister announced he will bring the law before the Knesset for first reading immediately after the recess," Stoessel said. "The law is essential to reduce Avner's accumulated

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

losses." He attributed the improved earnings in the first half of the year to the raising of compulsory insurance tariffs in September 1993 and to the small change in payments made for insurance claims.

Insurance premiums increased 22 percent in the first half to NIS 622.26m. from NIS 499.68m. in the same period last year. The accounts do not include premiums of NIS 31m. which are owed by Eliyahu Insurance due to the ongoing conflict between the two companies.

At the start of the year, Eliyahu withdrew its contract with Avner and instead signed an agreement with re-insurance companies from abroad who agreed to cover its car insurance holders.

Last week, the Tel Aviv District Court rejected Avner's request to stop Eliyahu from breach of the contract.

The court has not yet set a date for the principal claim. Avner has asked Tel Aviv District Court Judge Eliyahu Winograd to dis-

cuss the issue within a month or two.

Stoessel said other insurance companies have not expressed their intentions to cancel contracts with Avner, despite Eliyahu's withdrawal.

In contrast, he said, Zur Shamir insurance has asked Avner to join in a consortium.

Avner's reinsurance fell to NIS 6.45m. in the first half of the year from NIS 9.94m. during the corresponding period last year.

Stoessel said "the company reduced its reinsurance coverage after realizing that it is not economical for a large company, such as ours, to reinsure itself for small claims. We insured ourselves for claims over \$2m."

In the reported period, Avner's losses from investments increased to NIS 14.32m., compared with a net profit of NIS 8.22m. in the first half last year.

Avner incurred losses of NIS 28m. from the fall in the value of tradeable bonds on the stock exchange, compared with a loss of NIS 36,000 in the same period last year.

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE cabinet privatization committee yesterday set the conditions for the sale of 51 percent of El Al to the public that will guarantee the country's vital interests.

It also decided to delay taking the company out of receivership by four months.

The committee decided the carrier will remain an Israeli company, and its senior officials will be Israeli citizens with the appropriate security clearance.

Enemy entities and others suspected of wanting to harm the country's security will be proscribed from buying the company. In addition, limits will be established on foreign ownership.

The company will not be allowed to reduce its air fleet below a minimum to be set in the future, to enable the state to fly passengers and freight during times of emergency.

The state's golden share in El Al will include these three conditions.

The government will also make an agreement with El Al to enable the state to use the company's fleet



Kessar: El Al can't compete with foreign carriers. (Ariel Jerozolimski)

in special cases, such as operations to bring immigrants from countries in distress.

The committee agreed to delay taking the company out of receivership by four months to enable the government to make arrangements regarding the payment of the company's security costs.

El Al's security costs, estimated at \$55 million a year - 80% of which are currently met by the government - impose a heavy burden on the carrier.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who is also the committee's chairman, requested that a separate session be dedicated to the issue of the security costs and how they will be split between the government and the airline.

Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar complained that El Al does not have a fair chance to compete with foreign carriers due to the security costs.

"How can El Al compete with Turkish companies, when the security expenditure for each seat on an El Al airplane costs \$30," asked Kessar.

The committee also approved

an increase in the amount of Israel Chemicals shares that can be sold via a private placement from 15% to 24.9%.

The committee has already approved the concurrent sale to the public of a minimum of 22% of the company's shares up to a maximum of 32%.

The public issue, which is to follow closely after the private placement, will be offered here and abroad. The government's share in ICL will drop, as a result, to 28%.

The committee was also informed that in a few days the government will issue a tender for underwriting the sale of 48% of Lapidot-Israel Oil Exploration Corporation.

The shares will be sold to the public in the coming months through the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange as shares or warrants.

The committee also decided to close down the Welfare Services to Sailors Authority and to sell the laboratories belonging to the Industrial Research Center at the Technion in Haifa and close down the company.

El Al to stay in receivership an additional four months

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Government raises additional \$563m. in US loan guarantees: The government on Monday raised another \$563 million in US loan guarantees, the Treasury reported yesterday. The average cost of the borrowed funds will be 7.82 percent, excluding underwriting commissions, for a period of 30 years.

The state raised the previous \$1 billion in US loan guarantees in March at a lower rate of 7.23%, including underwriting costs. A year ago, the government was able to borrow at 6.38%, reflecting the steady increase in US long-term interest rates.

Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers underwrote the issue at a cost of \$2.25m. Kidder Peabody was the government's financial adviser. As a result of the \$437m. cut from this year's \$2b. in loan guarantees to offset last year's expenditures in the territories, the government was only able to raise the remaining \$563m. it was allotted. The money raised from this issue will be deposited at the beginning of next week in the Bank of Israel.

Provident fund assets fall NIS 105 million: Provident fund (kupa) assets fell NIS 105 million in August, as a wave of redemptions that began early this year continued, the Treasury reported yesterday. Provident redemptions totaled NIS 587m., while inflows were only NIS 482m.

By contrast, training funds (keren hitshuvim) assets grew by NIS 68m., and registered a NIS 356m. increase since the beginning of the year. Combined provident and training fund assets fell NIS 250m. since the beginning of the year.

Bank Mizrahi workers go to court over stock: Bank Mizrahi's workers yesterday asked the Tel Aviv District Court to declare they have a right to 10 percent of the bank's shares. The Treasury had agreed they should be granted the shares.

The workers said that at the beginning of next month the tender process for a controlling interest in the bank will be completed. They have asked the Treasury to clarify the conditions under which they will be granted the shares, but have received no reply.

Today not a bank business day: The comptroller of the Bank of Israel announced that today will not be a bank business day, since the central bank will not act as a clearinghouse on the eve of Yom Kippur. In addition, the Bank of Israel will not do any business in either local or foreign currencies.

CITCO wins Mideast distributorship of Pronova machines: Canadian-Israeli trade and investment company CITCO has received exclusive Middle East distributorship of Sweden's Pronova packaging machines. The flagship product, called Joker, will be displayed at the Isapak plastics exhibition next month.

Synel develops ID-card inspection system for Sofia factory: Synel Systems has developed a \$200,000 ID-card inspection system for a Bulgarian steel factory near Sofia. The complex system will allow for the identification of some 6,500 workers.

Israel Small Business Authority to establish center in Rahat: The Israel Small Business Authority plans to establish its first entrepreneurship center in the Be'er Sheva community. The center will provide information and services to area residents and encourage businesses there.

RCI officially opens Tel Aviv offices: Holiday exchange network RCI has officially opened its Tel Aviv offices. The company is the world's largest time-share network, with 2,631 resort properties in 79 countries worldwide. Local time-share locations include Jerusalem, Istanbul and Cairo, along with the major European and US capitals and resorts.

Trade deficit more than doubles last month to \$920 million

Exports plunge 17.3% as imports surge 14.6%

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE trade deficit more than doubled last month to \$920 million, as exports plunged 17.3 percent and imports surged 14.6%, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Exports fell to \$1,081 billion from \$1,307b. in July, while imports rose to \$2,001b. from \$1,746b.

The drop in exports reflected a sharp fall in industrial exports, which make up nearly three-quarters of total exports. In contrast, large consumer imports and production goods input imports pushed imports up.

During the first eight months of the year, the trade gap shot up 29%, as imports rose 14% com-

pared to a moderate 6% increase in exports.

Seasonally adjusted figures for the second third of the year show that exports, excluding diamonds, rose by 2.6%, or at 8% annually, as they did in the previous third.

Industrial exports went up by a more moderate 2.2%, or between 6% and 7% annually, lower than the 3.4% achieved in the previous third (nearly 11% annually).

By contrast, agricultural exports jumped 10% in the second third following a 7% drop in the first third of the year.

Imports shrank by 1%, or 2.5% annually, after shooting up by

25%, or 45% annually, in the first third of the year.

The trade gap was unchanged in the second third of the year, after surging by 25% in the first third and by 18% in the last third of 1993.

Last month, industrial exports fell 13.3% to \$1,294b. from \$1,122b. in July. Mining and quarrying exports dropped 35% and textiles fell 5.6%. Machine and electronic exports, which make up nearly half of all industrial exports, dropped 3.6%.

Wood, paper and print exports were flat, as were chemical exports. By contrast, food exports

rose 8.2% and rubber and plastic exports increased 6.5%.

Diamond exports plunged 45.8% to \$191m. from \$352m. in July. Agricultural exports went up 6% to \$543m. from \$510m. in the last harvesting season.

Consumer imports jumped 25.9% to \$292m. from \$232m. in July. Non-durable goods imports shot up 32.2%, while durable goods imports rose 21.6%. Car imports also increased, although by a more moderate 10.3%.

Production input imports rose 12.1% to \$1,391b. from \$1,241b. in July. Investment goods imports, such as machinery, equipment and vehicles, increased 10.8% to \$337m. from \$304m. in July.

InterPharm files for damages against minority shareholders

RACHEL NEIMAN

INTERPHARM Laboratories announced yesterday it has filed an action for \$3.6 million in damages against 41 minority shareholders.

The company charged it had suffered due to "unlawful actions" taken by the shareholders, which disrupted both business and the company's relationship with parent company Ares Sero.

In particular, it said the shareholders disrupted registration of bulk recombinant beta interferon (r-hIFN-beta).

InterPharm alleged that all actions taken by the shareholders were done "for the sole purpose of forcing Ares Sero to purchase their shares in InterPharm at a price substantially greater" than the \$22 per share it offered in its June tender.

InterPharm's actions come hard on the heels of a suit filed last week by the shareholder group against Ares Sero. Ares Trading, InterPharm, Inter-Lab and the Office of the Chief Scientist.

The shareholders want all agreements allowing transfer of

production of r-hIFN-beta to be rescinded and the current board of directors dismantled.

"We have filed 24 pages of very serious allegations requesting the dissolution of the board of directors and for a court-appointed nomination of a board of directors from the minority shareholders," one minority shareholder said.

The shareholders claim InterPharm's current board "operates out of inherent conflict of interests - their own and Ares Sero's."

The shareholders point out that share prices of both the parent company and the US-based Biogen rose dramatically following an agreement between the two companies and claim that proceeds from the sale and royalties rightfully belong to InterPharm.

However, the shareholders claim that Ares Sero benefits from patent rights on the multiple sclerosis drug in exchange for a cash payment and royalties, estimated at \$15 million by 1997.

InterPharm has not as yet responded to the shareholders' suit.

Mizrahi's provident funds achieve real yields in August

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

UNITED Mizrahi Bank's provident funds achieved real yields of between 0.65 percent and 1.4% last month, the bank reported yesterday.

The bank's best performing fund last month was Haniat (Medium), which had a 1.4% net real return on investments in August and a negative real return of 0.97% in the first eight months of the year.

Orit had a 1.11% real return in the reported period and a 17.4% negative real return from January to August. Shomron had a 1.08% net return in August and a 18.01% negative yield since January.

Also showing positive returns in August were Gemula Gimmel, with a real return of 0.96%; Atid, at 0.76%; Central Compensation, at 0.76%; Lior and Assaf at 0.74% and Tiferet at 0.69%.

Haniat Share was the worst performer, at a 0.65% real return.

All of Mizrahi's provident funds achieved negative real yields in the first eight months of the year. Gemula Gimmel was at 18.18%. Atid at 8.57% and Central Compensation at 8.82%.

Lior had a 8.49% negative yield, Assaf was at 10.12%, Tiferet at 8.49% and Haniat Shares at 16.42%.

US consumer prices rise moderately

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Consumer prices rose moderately for the third straight month in August, the US Labor Department said yesterday, easing concerns that inflation was gathering steam after a worrisome jump in wholesale prices last month.

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.3 percent, the same as in the previous two months.

The rise was fueled by another surge in coffee prices. Gasoline prices posted their largest rise in nearly a year, while prices for fruit and airline tickets also rose.

Economists had expected the August CPI to rise 0.4%. So far this year consumer prices have risen at a 2.9% annual rate after gaining by 2.7% in all of 1993.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (13.9.94)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (USD100,000)	4.250	4.825	5.125	3.2758
Pound sterling (GBP100,000)	4.250	4.825	5.125	3.0229
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.000	4.125	4.500	1.9578
Swiss franc (CHF 200,000)	3.000	3.250	3.625	0.7337
Yen (¥10 million)	0.750	0.875	1.125	0.0485

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (13.9.94)

CURRENCIES AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates*
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Buy	
U.S. dollar	3.3450	3.3950	3.4000	3.3758
German mark	2.9850	3.0350	2.94	3.0229
French franc	1.9409	1.9909	1.91	1.9578
Japanese yen (100)	4.6971	4.7471	4.60	4.62
Dutch florin	0.5670	0.5750	0.55	0.5729
Swiss franc	3.0282	3.0782	2.97	3.0485
British pound	1.7307	1.7550	1.70	1.7450
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3271	2.3520	2.28	2.3455
Italian lire	0.4003	0.4080	0.39	0.4035
Portuguese escudo	0.4422	0.4480	0.43	0.4439
Belgian franc (10)	0.4917	0.4988	0.48	0.4959
Irish pound	0.6037	0.6122	0.59	0.6058
Australian dollar	2.2123	2.2440	2.17	2.2292
S. African rand	2.2285	2.2610	2.17	2.2438
Canadian dollar	0.8427	0.8545	0.83	0.8497
Argentine peso (10)	0.9433	0.9566	0.93	0.9510
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7268	2.7655	2.71	2.7607
Israeli shekel (1000)	1.9131	1.9401	1.87	1.9265
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.20	4.2894
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.85	0.9085
ECU	3.7000	3.7523	—	3.7329
Irish punt	4.8273	4.8925	4.82	4.8832
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3389	2.3720	2.27	2.3569

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

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PAYMENT OF NII BENEFITS TO BE ADVANCED

Because of the festivals, the NII is advancing payment of benefits:

Child allowance will be paid on September 18 (instead of September 20)

Survivor's Pensions will be paid on September 25 (instead of September 28)

DURING SUCCOT THE BRANCHES OF THE NII WILL BE CLOSED

From Monday, September 19 (eve of Succot) and will reopen on Wednesday, September 28.

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INT'L STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Index	Last	Change
DJ Industrial	3679.98	+19.50
DJ 30	1373.22	+10.70
NASDAQ	1311.79	+12.30
NYSE Composite	2425.35	+1.20
NYSE Midcap	257.82	+0.10
S&P 500	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 100	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 200	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 300	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 400	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 500	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 600	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 700	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 800	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 900	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 1000	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 1100	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 1200	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 1300	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 1400	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 1500	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 1600	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 1700	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 1800	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 1900	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 2000	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 2100	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 2200	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 2300	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 2400	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 2500	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 2600	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 2700	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 2800	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 2900	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 3000	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 3100	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 3200	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 3300	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 3400	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 3500	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 3600	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 3700	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 3800	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 3900	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 4000	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 4100	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 4200	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 4300	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 4400	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 4500	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 4600	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 4700	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 4800	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 4900	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 5000	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 5100	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 5200	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 5300	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 5400	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 5500	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 5600	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 5700	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 5800	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 5900	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 6000	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 6100	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 6200	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 6300	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 6400	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 6500	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 6600	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 6700	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 6800	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 6900	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 7000	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 7100	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 7200	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 7300	344.14	+1.10
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NYSE 7500	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 7600	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 7700	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 7800	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 7900	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 8000	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 8100	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 8200	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 8300	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 8400	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 8500	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 8600	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 8700	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 8800	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 8900	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 9000	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 9100	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 9200	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 9300	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 9400	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 9500	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 9600	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 9700	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 9800	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 9900	344.14	+1.10
NYSE 10000	344.14	+1.10

Other stock market indexes

Index	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3121.4	-7.4
Nikkei 225	12504.1	+129.1
Hong Kong Hang Seng	9277.1	+129.1
Shanghai Composite	327.1	+1.1
ASX 200	327.1	+1.1
NYSE AMEX	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 100	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 200	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 300	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 400	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 500	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 600	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 700	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 800	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 900	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 1000	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 1100	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 1200	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 1300	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 1400	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 1500	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 1600	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 1700	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 1800	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 1900	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 2000	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 2100	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 2200	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 2300	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 2400	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 2500	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 2600	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 2700	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 2800	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 2900	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 3000	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 3100	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 3200	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 3300	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 3400	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 3500	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 3600	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 3700	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 3800	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 3900	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 4000	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 4100	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 4200	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 4300	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 4400	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 4500	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 4600	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 4700	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 4800	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 4900	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 5000	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 5100	327.1	+1.1
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NYSE 5400	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 5500	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 5600	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 5700	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 5800	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 5900	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 6000	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 6100	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 6200	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 6300	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 6400	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 6500	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 6600	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 6700	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 6800	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 6900	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 7000	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 7100	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 7200	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 7300	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 7400	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 7500	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 7600	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 7700	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 7800	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 7900	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 8000	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 8100	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 8200	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 8300	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 8400	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 8500	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 8600	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 8700	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 8800	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 8900	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 9000	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 9100	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 9200	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 9300	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 9400	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 9500	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 9600	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 9700	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 9800	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 9900	327.1	+1.1
NYSE 10000	327.1	+1.1

Israeli stocks in NY

Index	Last	Change
NYSE AMEX	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 100	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 200	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 300	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 400	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 500	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 600	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 700	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 800	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 900	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 1000	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 1100	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 1200	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 1300	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 1400	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 1500	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 1600	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 1700	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 1800	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 1900	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 2000	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 2100	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 2200	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 2300	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 2400	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 2500	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 2600	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 2700	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 2800	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 2900	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 3000	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 3100	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 3200	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 3300	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 3400	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 3500	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 3600	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 3700	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 3800	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 3900	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 4000	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 4100	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 4200	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 4300	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 4400	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 4500	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 4600	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 4700	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 4800	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 4900	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 5000	48.3	-0.2
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NYSE 5200	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 5300	48.3	-0.2
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NYSE 5500	48.3	-0.2
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NYSE 5800	48.3	-0.2
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NYSE 6000	48.3	-0.2
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NYSE 6200	48.3	-0.2
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NYSE 6400	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 6500	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 6600	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 6700	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 6800	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 6900	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 7000	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 7100	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 7200	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 7300	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 7400	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 7500	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 7600	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 7700	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 7800	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 7900	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 8000	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 8100	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 8200	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 8300	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 8400	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 8500	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 8600	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 8700	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 8800	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 8900	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 9000	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 9100	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 9200	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 9300	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 9400	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 9500	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 9600	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 9700	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 9800	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 9900	48.3	-0.2
NYSE 10000	48.3	-0.2

Dollar-crossrates (US)

NASDAQ / over-the-counter	
Aladin	8.375
ATH Dimension	8.25
Ampel 6.5	26.5
BVR	5.25
Converse	10.375
Data (DeForce)	7.0825
ECI	17.875
EuroMetals	4.375
Esti Soft	12.25
Electric Fuel	7.875
EFFI	23
ESOS	26
Elton	11



Foreign Minister Shimon Peres shakes hands with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Oslo yesterday, prior to a meeting to commemorate the first anniversary of the signing of the Gaza/Jericho accord in Washington. (AP)

ARAFAT

(Continued from Page One) blance conference," the first-ever regional business conference, which will take place under the patronage of Morocco's King Hassan II at the end of next month.

Peres and Arafat were scheduled to hold more discussions around midnight. They were to focus on Palestinian elections and IDF redeployment from Palestinian population centers, aides to Peres said.

Last night, Peres and Arafat attended a gala UNESCO peace "shalom-salam" concert, com-

memorating the first anniversary of the Oslo accord, which was reportedly attended by about 5,000 dignitaries. Zubin Mehta conducted the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra and singer Harry Belafonte performed.

Earlier in the day, Peres met with senior Norwegian officials and appeared before the Norwegian parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee. A Palestinian youth choir greeted Peres at the parliament, but in a minor embarrassment, reportedly sang the Palestinian national anthem.

SUSPECT

(Continued from Page One) duty to see to it that his rights are not being violated."

Meanwhile, President Ezer Weizman told the families of five of the arrested men that their charges of torture differ from what he has heard from the General Security Service.

Weizman told the family members that he will talk again with the GSS, and then meet again with the families. "What is needed now is to soothe tempers," he said.

According to Moshe Hariri — a brother-in-law of Rabbi Itzhak Eliahu, one of the arrested men — Edri's father told Weizman his son had a sack placed over his head, and that his head was banged into a table and into a wall. The family showed Weizman pictures of Edri that appeared in yesterday's press, claiming that there were visible rat bites on his nose.

The family members asked Weizman to intervene to allow for a visit to the arrested men by an impartial party, and also asked the president to intervene to ensure that they are able to pray. After his meeting, the relatives went to Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau to seek his intervention as well.

In a related development, the GSS did not bring Eitan Kahalani, another of the suspects, to Jerusa-

lem Magistrate's Court for a hearing on another matter yesterday.

Kahalani was to be tried for alleged involvement in an incident at the Machpela Cave late last year where two IDF soldiers were struck. The legal adviser to the Jerusalem police told Judge Yoram Noam that Kahalani was not brought to court because of the High Court of Justice decision barring him from meeting his lawyer. Kahalani has not yet met his lawyer since his arrest, which is believed to have taken place on August 26.

Kahalani's lawyer, David Mena, has appealed the extension of Eitan's and his brother, Yehoyada's, remand for their involvement in the alleged underground, and a hearing on the matter is scheduled for this morning in Haifa Magistrate's Court. The Kahalanis had their remands extended on Monday until September 21.

The protocol from the remand extension hearing published yesterday says that the police told the Haifa Magistrate's Court they have other suspects in the case who have not yet been arrested.

Also yesterday, police searched the house and carpentry shop of Michael Mor-Yosef in Kiryat Arba. A Kiryat Arba source said nothing was confiscated.

(Continued from Page One) that afflict all GSS installations — primarily physical conditions, such as small, cramped cells and lack of light — about which the ministry has warned in the past.

Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Ori Orr (Labor) was even more emphatic. The committee's subcommittee on intelligence was briefed yesterday by the acting head of the GSS on Shendar's findings. Orr then briefed the press — the first time there has ever been a briefing from an intelligence subcommittee, he said — because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Orr first vigorously denied that the GSS had made any effort to avoid the committee's scrutiny.

"The GSS was always open to telling me what was happening, and how," he said. In fact, it had an interest in doing so, since this was the only way to defend itself against accusations of wrongdoing, he said.

Orr said the acting GSS chief had assured the committee that Shendar found all of Edri's allegations to be false. He was not tortured; he was not investigated with a sack over his head; and there were no rat bites on his face.

Subcommittee member Elihu Ben-Elkasser (Likud) also said he was convinced by the report that the GSS was innocent of the allegations against it, though he still had questions about the whole affair. MK Ariel Sharon (Likud) said he wanted to talk to the prisoners after the investigation was over before making a final judgment.

Orr also said the arrests were made at the time they were to prevent an imminent terror attack against Arabs. However, he denied the planned attack had involved the Orient House. The group "had many ideas," he said, but this particular attack was not against Orient House. However, he said, it was against a specific target, rather than a random populace. He declined to specify the

DENY

target.

It is not yet clear whether the group actually carried out any attacks, he said. It is also not clear if additional suspects will be picked up.

Orr also said that the investigation of Edri should be completed soon, after which he will be transferred to the IDF to be tried by the military courts. Edri was not part of the group's "hard core," he said, and he implied that Edri had cooperated with his investigators.

He also said there is currently no evidence of a connection between the group and the outlawed Kach and Kahane Chai movements.

The treatment of the alleged underground was also the subject of a debate in the plenum later in the day, for which, however, less than 10 MKs showed up.

Zevulun Hammer (NRP) strongly advocated turning the investigation of Edri's allegations over to a judge. It was extremely suspicious, he said, that Edri had made such allegations to his lawyer and then later denied them to the Justice Ministry.

Surprisingly, Hammer received strong support from Law Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz), who made an impassioned speech on the subject.

"The GSS's record is such that it is permissible for me to doubt what they say," he said. "They have lied about important things too many times."

Zucker said that if this group was truly planning terror against Arabs to stop the peace process, then breaking it up should be a very high priority for the government. But even so, there are things that should be forbidden in any investigation, he said, and preventing a prisoner from seeing his lawyer is one of them.

"I do not know of any circumstances that justify preventing a meeting with a lawyer," he said. While it is true that some law-

yers have in the past interfered with investigations, he said, the Justice Ministry could get around this problem by making up a list of lawyers it considers trustworthy, and forcing security prisoners to choose their attorney from this list.

Zucker also stressed that what made the current situation possible is the state's long record of using such methods against Arabs. He cited the case of one Arab prisoner who was arrested on July 13, but not allowed to see a lawyer until August 11.

It was always clear that these methods, if permitted against Arabs, would eventually be used against Jews, he said, "and now everybody knows it."

Police Minister Moshe Shahal, who responded to all the motions on the subject for the government, stressed that Edri had been checked over by a hospital twice and found to be in good health.

"The investigation is being conducted according to the law," he said. "It is under the full supervision of the courts, and every complaint is investigated."

Shahal also rejected the notion that the government is using the GSS to persecute political opponents.

"Our security services will investigate any terrorist organization, whether Jewish or Arab," he said, adding that it is "nonsense" to think that in a mere two years, the government could have subverted the GSS even if it wanted to.

Finally, he condemned the right for not denouncing the group's alleged intention to commit terrorism, and he blasted the plans of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza to reveal the identities of top GSS officials by demonstrating opposite their homes.

"I have never seen nor heard of such an irresponsible act — to endanger the lives of the investigators," he said.

While it is true that some law-

(Continued from Page One) would cease its terror ... Syria maintains the quiet along the Golan because it is convenient, but it is waging real terror against us via another state [Lebanon] that it controls."

"I would like to remind the enlightened world, and the Syrians, why we are on the Golan," he continued. "We don't need to apologize to President Assad for the fact that we are [there]. We have the right to seek peace without worrying solely about the honor of the Arab sitting in Damascus and his lands. Jews also have honor."

Any agreement which involved giving up the Golan would be unacceptable, he said, because the Golan is "a geographic and topographic defense line." Anyone who thinks that territory is no longer important in an age of missiles need only remember the Gulf War to see his mistake, Kahalani added. For six weeks, the US Air Force pounded the Iraqis, and nothing happened. But when the tanks moved in, "the war ended in 100 hours."

"Missiles do not threaten the existence of a state," he said. "Missiles do not conquer territory."

Kahalani also warned against accepting a paper peace as a substitute for security, reminding the Knesset of how quickly other agreements, such as the one stationing UN troops in Gaza before the Six Day War, were voided at an Arab leader's whim.

"I don't believe in paper agreements," he said. "Paper agreements are honored only when there is strength behind them."

Meanwhile, Netanyahu promised that the Likud would not try to topple the government over a bill to require a 70-MK majority for concessions on the Golan, if Labor MKs cooperate in passing such a bill.

"We will not in any way act to topple the government over the

issue of [amending] the Golan law," he said. "I want to clearly separate the battle for the Golan from the battle to topple the government ... What we all need to do now is to put the country above the party."

Netanyahu stressed that Israeli leaders throughout the years, including Rabin only two years ago and Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak even today, have considered the Golan crucial to Israel's security.

Even Labor's election platform, he noted, stated that any peace agreement with Syria must retain an Israeli presence on the Golan.

"You did not receive a mandate to concede the Golan," Netanyahu told Rabin. "On the contrary: You received an explicit mandate to do the exact opposite. If you want to change this mandate ... go to the people now with new elections."

Furthermore, he added, no change has occurred in Syria to justify a change in Labor's position.

"What has changed since the [1992] elections?" he demanded. "Has the regime in Damascus changed? Has Syria become a democracy?"

MK Alex Goldfarb (Yi'ud), although half in the coalition, also said there was no place for "significant" concessions on the Golan, if there was room for any at all. He demanded that Rabin hold a referendum on the subject immediately, instead of waiting until an agreement was signed and then using the referendum as a rubber stamp.

In other news, Law Committee Chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) yesterday asked the attorney-general to investigate the use of municipal funds by Katrin to support the fight against withdrawal from the Golan. Municipal budgets are meant to provide services to all the inhabitants, he said — not to support political struggles about which the community is divided.

"We will not in any way act to topple the government over the

Monopolies Commission to probe the three leading dailies

LIAT COLLINS

THE Monopolies Commission is investigating whether the three main Hebrew dailies have violated regulations on restrictive trade practices, the commission spokesman said yesterday.

The announcement follows repeated complaints about the amount of power in the hands of *Yediot Aharonot*, *Ma'ariv*, and *Ha'aretz* run respectively by the Mozes, Nimrodi, and Schocken families.

The commission will investigate the whole range of business practices related to the daily press, the spokesman said. It will concentrate on the economic relationship between the owners of *Yediot* and *Ha'aretz*, and on discussions by the publishers of the three papers on the manner in which their journalists report events related to other papers.

The Press Council also issued a statement expressing "concern over the monopolization and cartelization of the press."

At its weekly meeting, the council said it is opening a discussion on the subject and instructed its legal adviser to examine if journalistic ethics have been violated.

The council said any violation would be tried by the council's own court of ethics.

Council president Haim Zadok, in a recent interview with Israel Radio, said he favors legislation which would prevent cartels from controlling the media, and called the amount of control in the hands of the three families "worrisome."

He commented following reports of business contacts between *Yediot*, published and edited by Arnon (Noni) Mozes, and *Ha'aretz*, published by Amos Schocken. Although Schocken initially denied the relationship, revealed in a *Ma'ariv* report, he later retracted his denial in a *Ha'aretz* article. He admitted that *Yediot* had loaned *Ha'aretz* money. Schocken's chain of local papers, led by Tel Aviv's *Ha'aretz* and Jerusalem's *Kol Ha'ir*, meanwhile, has run a series of stories about *Ma'ariv*'s practices.

Ha'aretz has reported that *Ma'ariv*'s Nimrodi initiated a move in June by which his paper would not publish details of the financial deal between *Ha'aretz*

and *Yediot* if they stopped their probes into the wiretapping affair now under police investigation.

Apart from the daily papers, *Yediot* and Schocken both have a chain of local papers: *Ma'ariv* has a local paper in Tel Aviv. All three have part ownership in cable stations: *Yediot* and *Ma'ariv* have part ownership in Channel 2 franchises. Schocken narrowly missed winning a television franchise, but is expected to try for a local radio franchise when the tender is issued shortly.

None of the editors are willing to be interviewed on the subject, however both Schocken and Mozes continue to publish charges against each other in their newspapers. Nimrodi last week wrote an article claiming that *Yediot* and Schocken's local papers had consistently exaggerated reports of his role in the wiretapping case, while underemphasizing the investigation into *Yediot* staffers. He also asked what other relevant information is being withheld from the public because of the econom-

ic interests involved. Nimrodi also asked about the integrity of Amos Schocken, who owes NIS 24 million to *Yediot*.

Schocken, on the other hand, claims that *Ma'ariv* has no right to claim it is the injured party, because Nimrodi initiated the move to hush up the wiretapping case in exchange for not releasing news of the *Yediot*-*Ha'aretz* ties.

"There is definitely a lot of information being hidden from the public and any attempt by the council or Monopolies Commission or others [to uncover it] is welcomed," Prof. Dov Sheinar, dean of the Communications School at the Tel Aviv College of Management, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday. "There is a coalition between the groups and a tremendous level of cross ownership with other economic interests involved."

Sheinar, however, noted the Press Council "had more teeth during [Yitzhak] Zamir's period as president [between 1988-1992], which was also before the whole Channel 2 issue of cross ownership occurred."

GUR

(Continued from Page One) would cease its terror ... Syria maintains the quiet along the Golan because it is convenient, but it is waging real terror against us via another state [Lebanon] that it controls."

"I would like to remind the enlightened world, and the Syrians, why we are on the Golan," he continued. "We don't need to apologize to President Assad for the fact that we are [there]. We have the right to seek peace without worrying solely about the honor of the Arab sitting in Damascus and his lands. Jews also have honor."

Any agreement which involved giving up the Golan would be unacceptable, he said, because the Golan is "a geographic and topographic defense line." Anyone who thinks that territory is no longer important in an age of missiles need only remember the Gulf War to see his mistake, Kahalani added. For six weeks, the US Air Force pounded the Iraqis, and nothing happened. But when the tanks moved in, "the war ended in 100 hours."

"Missiles do not threaten the existence of a state," he said. "Missiles do not conquer territory."

Kahalani also warned against accepting a paper peace as a substitute for security, reminding the Knesset of how quickly other agreements, such as the one stationing UN troops in Gaza before the Six Day War, were voided at an Arab leader's whim.

"I don't believe in paper agreements," he said. "Paper agreements are honored only when there is strength behind them."

Meanwhile, Netanyahu promised that the Likud would not try to topple the government over a bill to require a 70-MK majority for concessions on the Golan, if Labor MKs cooperate in passing such a bill.

"We will not in any way act to topple the government over the

issue of [amending] the Golan law," he said. "I want to clearly separate the battle for the Golan from the battle to topple the government ... What we all need to do now is to put the country above the party."

Netanyahu stressed that Israeli leaders throughout the years, including Rabin only two years ago and Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak even today, have considered the Golan crucial to Israel's security.

Even Labor's election platform, he noted, stated that any peace agreement with Syria must retain an Israeli presence on the Golan.

"You did not receive a mandate to concede the Golan," Netanyahu told Rabin. "On the contrary: You received an explicit mandate to do the exact opposite. If you want to change this mandate ... go to the people now with new elections."

Furthermore, he added, no change has occurred in Syria to justify a change in Labor's position.

"What has changed since the [1992] elections?" he demanded. "Has the regime in Damascus changed? Has Syria become a democracy?"

MK Alex Goldfarb (Yi'ud), although half in the coalition, also said there was no place for "significant" concessions on the Golan, if there was room for any at all. He demanded that Rabin hold a referendum on the subject immediately, instead of waiting until an agreement was signed and then using the referendum as a rubber stamp.

In other news, Law Committee Chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) yesterday asked the attorney-general to investigate the use of municipal funds by Katrin to support the fight against withdrawal from the Golan. Municipal budgets are meant to provide services to all the inhabitants, he said — not to support political struggles about which the community is divided.

"We will not in any way act to topple the government over the

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Panel okays health fund point system for NII funds

JUDY SIEGEL

HEALTH taxes collected by the National Insurance Institute will be allocated among the various health funds according to a point-system based on members' age.

This important part of the National Health Insurance Law was approved yesterday by the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee on the recommendation of the Health Ministry.

Members up to age five will be "worth" 1.17 points to their health funds - the same number of points as adults 46 to 55. Children five to 15 will be worth 0.45 points; teenagers and young adults up to 25, 0.50 points; adults 26 to 35, 0.73 points; 36 to 45, 0.81 points; 46 to 55, 1.09 points; 56 to 65, 1.69 points; 66 to 75, 2.78 points; and over 75, 3.48 points.

The capitation system will encourage health funds to seek older members since increased costs for this group will be covered by the NII compensation.

The system will not take into consideration distance from the center of the country. Health Minister Ephraim Sneh argued that health costs according to age could be calculated objectively, but not those due to distance. Sneh said health funds could be compensated for increased costs in outlying areas and development towns with direct and localized financial incentives from the government.

What the official "basket of health services" will include has yet to be decided and approved by the committee. The ministry expects the national health insurance system will go into operation on January 1 if MKs agree on ways to finance the health funds.



'Davar' reporter Haggai Porshner holds a poster in the protest yesterday over the Histadrut's failure to pay staff salaries. (Davidov/Israel San)

Yeshiva expansion on Mount of Olives approved

BILL HUTMAN

THE controversial expansion plan for the Beit Orot Yeshiva on the Mount of Olives, in the Arab neighborhood of A-Tur, has been approved by the Jerusalem Municipality's building committee.

The project is slated to be built on land originally zoned for an Arab school. However, as part of a compromise, the committee approved an alternative site for the Arab school.

The committee also eased building restrictions on about 30 dunams in A-Tur, in an effort to ease opposition to the Beit Orot

project.

Opponents of the Beit Orot project, near the home of PLO official Faisal Husseini, said its being located in an Arab neighborhood is a provocation. Proponents said the committee reached a fair compromise, meeting the needs of both the Jewish and Arab populations.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert has strongly backed the yeshiva's construction plans. All committee coalition members made a rare ap-

pearance Monday for the vote on the project.

The plan, which still must go before the regional planning committee, was passed by a vote of 8 to 3. All the coalition members voted in favor and opposition members against.

"This plan is a disaster for Jerusalem at this time," said opposition councilor Nurit Yardeni-Levy. "Instead of encouraging coexistence, the city is creating provocations," she said.

Beit Orot was given approval by the committee to build a three-story structure covering approximately three dunams. The project is to adjoin the yeshiva's present site.

Yeshiva head Rabbi Benny Alon said that "we have waited a long time for approval, and now can only hope that the regional committee lets us start work."

But Alon said he was worried that "the government will try to block the project." The regional committee is controlled by government representatives.

'Davar' protests Histadrut failure to pay salaries

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

SOME 150 *Davar* workers demonstrated yesterday outside the newspaper's offices against the Histadrut, which did not pay them August wages and left them without pay before the High Holy Days.

The demonstrators demanded that Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon keep his agreement with them to keep *Davar* going until the end of the year.

Histadrut Executive Member Binyamin Gonen, head of the Joint (Jewish-Arab) List, said that withholding wages is a blatant violation of Haim Ramon's promise to the Executive that the newspaper would not be shut down and that the Histadrut would continue to finance it until a solution is found to keep it going.

New York-based attorney Leon Charney arrived yesterday, after hearing of *Davar's* plight, in an attempt to wrap up the deal with the journalists to purchase the paper jointly from the Histadrut.

Charney, who represents a group of domestic and foreign businessmen interested in investing in *Davar*, expressed surprise at Ramon's sudden move to strangle the newspaper in the midst of the take over negotiations.

Ramon, journalists' staff committee chairman Efraim Davidi said, recently accused *Davar* of "criminal acts. Yes, criminal acts

are being committed in *Davar*, but by its owner, the Histadrut, which is not paying the workers' wages and is violating work agreements, both of which are against the law."

At the demonstration, Gonen read the protocol of the executive meeting at which Ramon promised to continue publication, and stressed that the Histadrut should be the first body to honor work agreements and pay its workers' wages. He placed himself behind *Davar's* struggle to survive and called on other unions to join in.

Journalists Association chairman Arye Avneri expressed astonishment at the Histadrut's withholding workers' pay, noting that this kind of conduct is incompatible with the cooperation agreement recently signed between the Histadrut and the Journalists' Association.

"If this action against the workers continues, we will enlist all journalists against the Histadrut leadership. Next time we will all demonstrate outside Ramon's villa in Ramat Hasharon," he said.

Davar sources said the demonstration is the first step in the battle. *Davar*'s satirical supplement, *Davar Aher*, will not be appearing this Friday for the third week in a row, because the money for its writers ran out, and they have not been paid since last month.

Three remanded in wiretap case

RAINE MARCUS

THREE men suspected of being involved in the wiretapping case regarding the daily newspapers *Yediot Aharonot* and *Ma'ariv* were remanded by Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Ya'acov Bak, a former policeman who complained of ill health, was remanded for seven days after a doctor pronounced him fit to remain in custody.

Ya'acov Revah, owner of the Haifa branch of the Motal investigation agency, and messenger Yossi Shemesh were remanded for 24 hours by Judge Noga Ohad.

Police believe that Bak, who introduced Motal investigators to *Yediot's* management through intermediary Ruth Ben-Ari, a senior employee of the paper, masterminded a theft from a rival investigation agency.

They also suspect he was involved in tapping the phones of

"public figures," including Dov Yudekovsky, former editor of *Yediot* and later of *Ma'ariv*. Yudekovsky's phone was bugged after he moved to *Ma'ariv*.

Bak denied wiretapping offenses and being the brains behind the theft of documents from Motal's rival Tashbez agency. However he admitted introducing Motal investigators to his friend, Ruth Ben-Ari.

Defense lawyer Moshe Aloni said he would appeal Bak's remand. "My client is cooperating with police, and there is no reason to keep him in custody," he said.

Bak is apparently not connected with the main wiretapping case involving Rafi Friedman and Ya'acov Tsar, accused of tapping phones of hundreds of media personnel, politicians, and businessmen. However the Tashbez/Motal affair was exposed as a result of this case.

Demand for workers up 10.3% - job-seekers drop 0.5%

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE number of job-seekers increased only 0.5 percent last month, adjusted for seasonal factors, growing from 106,100 to 106,600, but the demand for workers increased 10.3%, according to Labor and Social Affairs Ministry figures released yesterday.

The number of job seekers who do not qualify for welfare was up 1.9% to 68,200 compared to 66,900 in July. The number of job-seekers seeking welfare dropped 5.3% to 23,300, compared to 24,600 the previous month. A total of 15,100 academics were among those seeking work, up 3.8%, with 940 job offers received for academics.

Those who are unemployed appear to be remaining so longer. According to the figures, the number of those seeking work who

have accumulated six or more days of unemployment during July was 76.6%, compared to 74% in July and 72.3% in June, and totaled 70,800 people. However, fewer new immigrants were among the job seekers, a figure that dropped from 11,000 in July to 10,800 last month. Women made up 56.4% of the job seekers, compared to 56.6% in July, while about half were under 35.

The northern town of Shlomi last month joined the list of towns with the worst unemployment around the country, a list topped by Sderot, where unemployment is 17.3%. Others on the list include Or Akiva (13.9%), Ofakim (13.4%), Mitpe Ramon (13.2%), Kiryat Gat (12.1%), Shlomi (11%), Yeroham (10.7%), Malachi (10.1%), Kiryat Malachi (9.9%), and Ashkelon (9.6%).

The demand for workers was up to 22,200 compared to 20,100 in July, most of them in construction (33.3%) and industry (17.7%), with the greatest increases in demand in industry and commercial and food services.



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